

# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

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From cream vigorously shaken, comes butter, natural and pure.



## QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

She had grace, style and an incomparable *je ne sais quoi* that is difficult to be seen again. The Queen Mary, as she was almost universally known, was the first British royal to see to have had a truly common touch—and will be sorely missed.

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## Heartwarming

There's no question the mechanical heart pump will be very beneficial to people with heart problems ("The pump of life," *Covers*, March 25). However, the long-term strategy should address clogged arteries through preventive medicine that is both effective and non-invasive. Niacin is a minute B vitamin that cuts down bad cholesterol, increases blood circulation (and this increases energy) and has anti-inflammatory qualities. Using niacin is very cost-effective, too, which is why we should be hearing a lot more about it as the health-care debate rages on.

Mark Farnsworth, Victoria

## Serbian experience

I am sure that Canadian police Const. Neil Madill has accurately recorded his experience in Mitrovica ("When Kosovo went mad," *Over to You*, March 25). It is undeniable that some Serbs have behaved brutally. But those few Serbs who remain in Kosovo are entirely dependent upon United Nations forces for both security and direction in the UN administration insisted that all Serbian forces, police and army, be withdrawn from what is historically Serbian territory to a line at least five miles outside the Kosovo border. No



such structure was applied to the Albanians, and the Kosovo Liberation Army was allowed to turn its coats inside out and assume the role of a police force. For every Serbian atrocity there are 20 Albanian atrocities against Serbs. Why is it that we only hear when Serbs are the aggressors, never when they are the victims?

Geoffrey Warkentin, Oliver

## The funding connection

The lack of growth in some areas of Canada, revealed by the latest census ("The changing face of Canada," *The Week That Was*, March 25), may in part be the result of federal policies that do not favour smaller provinces and their universities. Universities contribute much to acquiring and training productive people and providing the foundation for the healthy economies and high-quality life that lead people to live in certain regions. But with the cutbacks in federal transfers for post-secondary education, universities have become more dependent on special transfers that favour large provinces and institutions. For example, Manitoba received only 2.5 per cent of grants and scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada from 1991 to 2001, despite having more than 3.5 per cent of the population. Statistics on the *Maclean's* university rankings issue (Nov. 19, 2001) documents shortcomings comparable with this imbalance. Manitoba universities have difficulty offering competitive scholarships and fellowships, fail to attract students from out of province and out of the country, have limited library holdings, and provide fewer funds for students to participate in research. Unless all regions and peoples are equally supported by the federal government in their scholarly and educational aspirations, Canada will continue to evolve into increasingly have and have-not regions.

James H. Clark, President, Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations, Winnipeg

## Priorities

I was pleased to learn that the RCMP spend considerable time, energy and resources to find the perfect black horses for their Musical Ride, because this obviously means that all crimes in Canada have been solved and the RCMP can spend their energy on these important matters ("What only black will do," *Overnote*, March 25).

Mike Mendicino, Montreal

## 'Slap in the face'

When I opened the March 18 issue to *The Mail* section, my eyes were immediately captured by the picture of a Canadian soldier. As I read, I went from tears of thankfulness for my Canadian neighbours, to tears of anger because of the ridiculous comments of Brian Mackinnon of "Winthrop" on the "questionable and unrepresentative foreign policy" of the United States ("Canadians in harm's way," *To err*). That Canadians are going in harm's way for reasons other than helping stamp out worldwide terrorism is an unneighbourly slap in the face of those who lost their lives on that tragic day in September, but also a slap in the face of the freedom-loving soldier. I am proud to be an American who would gladly put on my uniform and help you fight evil. Instead of spending your energy giving us hell, why don't you spend it supporting your young men and women sacrificing their youth for you and your country?

Paul J. Pugh, Nashville, Tenn.

## Book on-line

The content of "Forgotten Mountain" (*Entertainment Notes*, March 18) about my father's book *The United States of America* was right to the heart of the matter, ultimately causing the eye of many. Unfortunately, the book will not be in stores until the fall and is available only by mail or through our Web site [www.shawsonline.com](http://www.shawsonline.com).

Emily Clark, Creative Creative Publishing, Winnipeg

## Hitler's toil

In "The history maker" (*Q&A*, March 18), Sir Martin Gilbert refers to a misadventure "where Britain is being bombed every

# Silent Witnesses to History



In the first century BC, King Antiochus I ordered his sculptors to chisel colossal stone statues of himself, commencing with the gods. He set them atop Mount Melez in southeastern Turkey to witness the dawn. Lost to memory for nearly 2,000 years, they've been rediscovered by modern visitors who enjoy driving or hiking up Melez to sit with them at daybreak. Only one of the many compelling reasons to discover Turkey this year.



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# What do we really know about the two most talked-about nations in the world?

Feed your curiosity.

For ten hours over four days, CBC Radio takes you behind the headlines to meet the people of Afghanistan and the U.S. who are living a daily human drama. From their own words, you'll learn about their experiences, hopes and fears. If you think you've heard it all, if you think Canadians haven't been directly affected, you're in for a world of surprise.

**Afghanistan: The Sky Cries Blood**  
Thursday, April 11, 9:00 am to Noon (9:30 NT)

**Americans, Close Up**  
Friday, April 12, 9:00 am to Noon (9:30 NT)

**Afghanistan: Threads of Hope**  
Saturday, April 13, 7:00 to 8:00 pm (6:00 AT, 6:30 NT)

**We're All American Now**  
Sunday, April 14, 9:00 am to Noon (9:30 NT)



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## The Mail

night by Germany, and thousands of Londoners killed every night." Not to detract from the interesting article, I believe that Sir Martin may have exaggerated somewhat to put his point across. Through Hitler singled out London for his major effort of destruction, the Germans did not bomb London "every" night (it was there for part of it) and thousands were not killed "every" night.

Peter M. Jenkins, Toronto, Ont.

I don't doubt there was anti-Semitism in Toronto in 1940—or now. But I'm puzzled by what Sir Martin Gilbert calls a anti-Semitic sign in the city then. He refers to "pictographs" that indicated certain areas were restricted to Jews. I was born in 1919 and went through Toronto schools up through the University of Toronto, including a bar mitzvah at Holy Blossom synagogue. Never did I encounter anti-Semitism or see any pictographs or restricted signs. I was proudly out of the country in the RCAF during the 1940s but find it hard to believe that signs appeared so readily.

Norman Abbotstein, East Hampton, N.Y.

## Softwood hardball

If we want to be a significant part of the softwood lumber market in the United States, we have to play their crooked game by buying influence in Washington. ("The chase.") The Week That Was, April 1). We need to find a way to channel money through organizations that are on our side to fund all kinds of lobbying and political pressure. We need to find the American politicians who are friendly to our point of view and help them get elected in this year's congressional elections. We need to get American industry leaders to lobby on our side of the aisle. And every Canadian counsel in the U.S. should be contacting major business (in the area with a message like this: "Canada may well be forced to retaliate for this unwarranted trade action, and you could be a target." We should bring that message to Florida orange growers, Washington state apple pickers, aircraft makers like Boeing, computer firms from Dell to Microsoft, and major operators like Disney in all the major areas that depend heavily on Canadian "know-how." We must also make the American public aware of the issue. How about a lot of ad-



Voting in Zimbabwe's fraudulent election

vertisements carrying pictures of the CEOs of the top half-dozen big U.S. lumber firms under the headline "These politicians don't want you to be able to buy a house," with copy pointing out that the home price increases caused by their actions have priced 450,000 American families out of affording a house! It is about time we stood up and fought for our place in the American market.

Ralph Klein, Prince George, B.C.

There is a silver lining to the softwood lumber issue. America is forcing us to diversify our economy and reminding us of Trudeau's third option made with the rest of the world.

Greg J. Edwards, Delta, B.C.

The U.S. has been dumping its cultural products into Canada for a very long time. Let's put a 25-per-cent duty on all American movies, television, ads, newspapers, magazines and video games. In short, a duty on all U.S. culture. Now that might get their attention. Oh, and let's pull our troops out of Afghanistan. I see no need for Canada to support the U.S. if they are going to treat us like that.

Rick Colman, Sarnia, B.C.

## Zimbabwe alarm

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's despicable role in the Zimbabwe debacle is an unconscionable blot on Canada's international reputation for supporting democratic ideals ("Strangling on Zimbabwe," Canada and the World, March 25). By posing unprincipled "liberal" diplomacy and political correctness ahead of its democratic obligations, Canada has sullied its name. Zimbabwe must be truly isolated from all Commonwealth events until Mugabe and his ZANU-PF thugs are totally eliminated and a lawful government established. The white farmers and other Europeans must be given full military protection from terrorists and the

Zimbabwean military by a Common-wealth brigade made up of civilian-ready troops. We must not allow a repeat of Rwanda.

Robert Dapkin, Wrentham, England

## Adventures in Tajikistan

You captured the spirit, sense of humour and determination of those of us working and mining in a lonely snowy place ("All that glitters," Canada and the World, Feb. 18). But the Tajik government is not an "old-fashioned Soviet-style dictatorship." It is a democratically elected body that is gradually working out how to govern the country in an acceptable manner. It hasn't been easy. After winning its independence from Russia in 1991, it was a five-year civil war. The Russians and the war left Tajikistan with no civil administration, no money, no financial experience, no commercial know-how and, above all, a people with no "trust window," the vital element of capitalism that we in the West take for granted. Tajikistan's desperate need for foreign investment is not less being met following the collapse of the Taliban and the West's renewed interest in the region. Any reference to "aidy" condescension arises. The Tajik people need help to build their confidence, a pride in themselves and a sense of belonging to the world community.

Alvin Robinson, Oak, President and CEO Gulf Inter-national Minerals Ltd., Vancouver

## Foth on Erb

Congratulations, Dr. Foth, on an interesting column about someone my two sons and I have long considered one of the most fascinating people on earth. How, Madame Justice Maudie C. Erb, our aunt ("The twin of history," March 25). In addition to the escapades noted in your piece, we recognize Justice Erb for never being too shy to pull forth with the witch candle she perfected to drill us as children, for never being too nervous to leave a treacherous wintery room (in an ancient yellow backback) between Susan and Fern McMurray to spend Christmas being jumped on by three little girls eagerly awaiting her arrival. Maudie is a frighteningly intelligent woman capable of giving faster than the wind, talking faster than most people can think, and drinking faster than most people can possibly imagine.

Angela Vogel, Saskatoon

# Go Green.



## Conserve. Preserve. Donate. Let's Do It Together.

The struggle to preserve wildlife. The pollution in the air we breathe. Challenges like these mean it's vital that we, and especially our children, recognize the importance of preserving our environment.

Established in 1990, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation is a not-profit organization funding local Canadian environmental initiatives. So far we have raised \$27 million for over 12,000 local environment projects. TD Bank Financial Group\* donates \$1 million each year to the

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. We also cover all the Foundation's administrative costs.



When you support the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, every dollar you contribute goes to funding environmental projects in your own community. You can contribute as little as \$1.00 per month, through an automatic deduction from your

TD Canada Trust chequing or savings account.

By teaching our children about the environment, we are creating a new generation of environmental guardians. Says Dr. Joe MacLean, Chair, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation: "I encourage you to inspire our children to protect the natural world." To donate today, visit your local TD Canada Trust branch, call 1-800-577-6103 or, to find out more, log on to [www.td.com/community](http://www.td.com/community).

Thank you



**Bank Financial Group**

\*TD Bank Financial Group means The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its related companies.

# Friends of the Environment

With over \$27 million donated to more than 12,000 local projects, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation makes a positive impact on the environment. Here are just a few of the stories.

## Young at heart

It's ultimately going to be their world, so instilling our children with a love of our environment should be one of our most important goals.

The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation believes that The Young Naturalists of British Columbia have an excellent approach to environmental education, and provides support for their programs. These boys and girls explore their communities, discover the wonders of nature and work with other environmental groups to develop individual and group initiatives to protect the environment.

The Young Naturalists also hold expert days to learn from experienced naturalists and gain hands-on experience in such areas as insect studies, bird identification and forest floor observations. In partnership with local environmental groups to educate and inspire future generations, this group's efforts are fully aligned with the foundation's goal of investing in the future of Canadian communities.

## Up on the roof

In our urban centres, rooftop gardens can do a world of good. In Montreal, a project funded by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation is examining ways to improve the air quality, increase natural habitat and reduce run-off into the sewer system.

The rooftop gardens at the YMCA - Notre Dame de Grace will help the participants gain valuable knowledge about the potential for this type of urban enhancement and the propagation of native plant species. McGill University's Department of Agriculture will use the garden to develop innovative growing techniques, such as organic seedlings and organic fertilizers.

## A nursery tale

There was a time when the Thames River watershed in London, Ontario was an ideal natural habitat. But as the community has grown, it has become increasingly difficult for plants and wildlife to flourish.

Thanks in part to a grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Thames watershed is getting a helping hand from a burgeoning nursery. The cuttings and seeds it produces will be used to replant the vegetation along the city's rivers and streams, which is expected to encourage the return of local wildlife. The one-acre nursery will also provide local landscaping and environmental restoration projects with a ready supply of plants and cuttings, leaving a green legacy throughout the region.



Dr. Joe MacLean has chaired the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation since 1996 and has played a major role in building awareness and support for its work. Dr. MacLean has an international reputation for his pioneering work in science, business and the environment, and has led 30 major scientific expeditions in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Dr. MacLean's work has earned him many distinctions, including four honorary doctorates, the Queen's Anniversary Medal and the Order of Canada.

## Off to camp

The Earthkeepers program is an outdoor environmental camp that helps young people appreciate and understand the earth's ecology through active, hands-on learning. By studying environmental issues such as energy conservation and recycling, students discover the human impact on our environment. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation funding sent 41 students from Brookside School in Halifax to the Earthkeepers camp.

## Here's how you can Go Green

You can support the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation through automatic monthly donations from any TD Canada Trust chequing or savings account. Every dollar raised in your community will be used for projects in your area, and TD Bank Financial Group donates \$1 million a year to the Foundation. You can donate as little as \$1 a month and change your donation amount at any time. For annual donations over \$40, you will receive a registered charitable tax receipt in time for tax season.

As a contributor to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, you can become a member of one of the over 110 Local Advisory Boards across Canada that recommend projects for funding support. And, if you belong to a charitable organization that needs help with a local environmental activity, you can submit your application for project funding.

To learn more about the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, automatic monthly donations, joining your Local Advisory Board, or how to apply for project funding, visit the website at [www.td.com/community](http://www.td.com/community) or drop into any TD Canada Trust branch. You can also arrange your automatic monthly donations by calling 1-800-577-6103. ■



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The Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities 2002 contains in-depth profiles of 68 universities across Canada. Old and new, small and large—they're all here, from the pastoral University of Toronto to the urban university of Toronto.

The guide contains vital information about financial planning, living in residence and scholarship opportunities, as well as listings of what's hot and what's not on each of the campuses. You get all this, plus the exclusive (student) ratings, which evaluate universities based on resources, reputation and more.

Edited by Ann Dawson-Johnson, a four-time National Magazine Award winner, the Maclean's university guide is vital to both students and concerned parents. Find it on newsstands everywhere.

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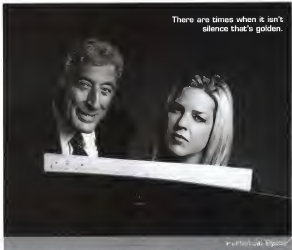
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# Overture

Edited by Shanda Dezel with Amy Cameron

## An athlete's test of courage

The winners were fishing super time at the 2003 Canadian Sport Awards last week in Toronto. After the CBC-televised event celebrated the heroic efforts of the sport heroes, **Caroline Le May** (30) called out to her mother, "I'm proud of you." The head of the women's rowing team who aimed the sword for coaching excellence, stressed the importance of providing moral leadership through sport. So it was fitting that **Ashley Coven**, a 16-year-old from Toronto, was the star of the show.

Coven, who last September swam across Lake Erie, captured the first piece of crystal on the night—the Spirit of Sport Story of the Year. It's a first ever CSA prize to celebrate an athlete who did more than simply win a race. The other nominees were **Daniel Gagliardi**, the Olympic champion wrestler who has raised money to build a school in the west African village where he grew up; the decorated swimmer and the first female to swim the length of the Great Lakes; and **Jeff Liberty**, a former football player who jumped into the Bow River in Calgary last November to save a pregnant woman whose car had crashed into the river.

Coven's story is also more than just about an athlete's feat. When she was just 16 months old, her hands were amputated below the elbows and knees after she survived a near-fatal bout of meningitis. Her condition was initially diagnosed as a fever, but her mother, **Sharon**, caught a second, and then a third opinion. Coven was sent by ambulance to Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and to the way her heart stopped for 15 minutes. By the time she was reconnected by paramedics, her heart had stopped for 14 hours and 20 minutes.

Her durability has not stopped her



Whether it's skating, swimming or surfing, Coven is ready to go

Coven competed as a figure skater until at age 8 she watched news coverage of actress swimmer **Vicki Keith** crossing the Great Lakes. "I told my mother that's what I'm going to do" and she was like, "You're right," Coven says. "But I told her to prove her wrong." It was a bold prediction, given that Coven couldn't even float at the time. "When she came to me she couldn't swim half the length of the pool," says Keith, who has been her coach since 1994. "And yet there she was, saying she wanted to swim across the lake." By December 2000, Keith "saw something in her that told me she could do it." And Coven did, dipping into Lake Erie at Sturgeon Point, N.Y., on Sept. 7, 1999. Keith paddling beside her in a kayak. Coven averaged 20 km to the north at Dryden Beach, Ont., after battling currents and choppy water for 14 hours and 20 minutes.

The story doesn't end there. Coven

Marched her own effort to raise money for Varsity Village, a fitness facility designed for the disabled. Initially her story didn't get widespread attention. And money has been slow to filter in—only about \$2,000 so far. But that total should grow last week's Spirit of Sport award will help raise awareness of her efforts, as will subsequent interviews on several U.S. TV shows, including *Living One*.

Though unused to the spotlight, Coven showed great composure when she won—over all she didn't feel it. "I wasn't calm at all," she says. "I was shaking when I got on stage, and I made the mistake of looking at my mom. She was bawling her eyes out." Still, Coven kept it together, and that talent, combined with her growing fame, may help her in her long-range ambition: "I love music," says the Grade 10 student. "And I want to be a singer." Don't bet against her.

James Devel

## To wit, to woo

At least we're laughing at ourselves. The second annual April Fool's Day poll conducted by The Comedy Network/Topic-Field found that 26 per cent of Canadians think Canada is the funniest country in the world, well ahead of Australia (23 per cent) and the U.S. (14 per cent). The majority of Canadians (71 per cent) also feel that our humour is more sophisticated than that of our neighbours in the south. Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador are most likely to make us feel, while Canadians feel that Prince Edward Islanders suffer the most from a lack of a funny bone. Eight out of 10 people polled think a sense of humour is more important than looks—but hell would still prefer to be attractive rather than funny. As well, two-thirds of Canadians think men are funnier than women. Now that's hysterical.

## Over and Under

### EzraLament!

**Ezra Levant:** Gordato is can't stop making in Calgary Southwest for **Stephen Harper** on principles, then don't pay any. Maybe he also brings Ontario.

**Colin Fries:** Unintentionally by Hollywood in Pearl Harbor, Canadian actor decides on CBC's *Twelve*. How far can he go? Just watch him.

**Ralph Klein:** Poll shows his government's popularity has plunged this year. Health-care costs, teachers' strike, two-went-to-hospital—enough to drive him. Even *Winnipeg* folks say so.

**Eric Cluie:** Saskatchewan finance minister puts personal taxes—but takes bonus and cigarette levies, along with crop insurance and running home from *Canada's* (it's going to be a broader definition of "oil tax").

No news is good news, right?

The CSA says malfunctions are infrequent, and that in any case the train will work. The problem is in the primary controls system, but the backup controls function. Bottom line, however, the west must go. The test shuttle to the station is to launch as planned this week, but NASA postponed the following one by almost a month (to May 31) to give astronauts time to prepare replacing the core. The delay means the station's three-man crew—out to return to Earth—could get light-out will now be extended to 26 days tops. "We didn't think it was particularly concerning," said the CSA spokeswoman. Right, can you say Broomfield? We have a comment? **Debra Nussimbaum**



DOI: 10.1002/for



A Reviewer for Holmwood

In order to dance professionally, **Hallowack** knew she had to leave Prince Edward Island. "If you are in the arts and want to grow, you have to leave," says the Charlottetown native. So a pursuit of her dream, Hallowack packed in frustration, Folic, Vernon, New York City and then found herself in Tel Aviv. It was there, while struggling with a busy schedule as a choreographer and dance teacher, that Hallowack

discovered Mayans—a show that combines music, dance and performance art. The members of the troupe were looking for people to work with and Halloween meant about the audition “I didn’t really have the time,” she reflects. “But I went out of curiosity and fell in love.”

Five years later Holbrook, 32, is returning to Canada, this time with May unana (pronounced me HOU me na).

What began as a simple fashion show with television set design has blossomed into a cultural institution. The MTV Museum in **Manhattan** (by **Michael Zuckerman**)—highlighting the changing shape, size and technology of the tube both over the course of a century, as well as its impact on the world. "We've taken television for granted since Guy [L.] Lippert," says **Michael Adams**, museum producer and Zuckerman's business manager. The space, which opens April 5 in **Barbara's Club-CityCenter** building, houses Zuckerman's collection of 200

W says that he started accumulating about 30 years ago. The museum is an extension of Watching TV, an exhibit that began in 1995 and appeared at galleries across the country, including the national capital region's Museum of Civilization and the Wyle Museum of the Goodlife Rockies in Banff, Alta. Among the nearly 40 pieces on display are a rare 1920s Jenkins homebrew, a build-your-own television that uses a



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des to project the image of RCA's Phantom Television: made of lightweight plastic male and built for the 1959 World's Fair in New York City, and the first place in *Design in Education*, a 1956 Philco Prize. Says Adams: "The story television's growth—that it went through a similar evolution as the dot-com campaign of today—is one that few people know."

David Chern



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Adam Clark,  
President & GM  
AIMEW Canada

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Over to You ELIZABETH HUDSON

## Sex, evil and indifference

Every night, women who work on the street face the fear that this shift may be their last. These women normally call themselves "working girls" or "working women," and regard themselves as doing a job like anyone else—the difference is only in the product for sale. But they all have nightmares about the dangers they face, and for the huge group known as the "50 missing Vancouver women," the nightmares came true. The terror of this story—including the charges of murder against a suburban pig farmer—takes us beyond massage parlors. It reminds me again in bold type what any city owes the women of the street.

How do I know? Long ago, I was one of these marginalized women. Sadly, it is impossible to work as a prostitute anywhere in North America and escape bad days. But the worst "bad days" don't come close to the brutal reality. By its very definition, prostitution is an exchange—sex for cash—and when the trust of that arrangement is altered, Russian roulette begins. The outcome can range from assault, robbery and rape to death. During my two years on the street, I escaped only death—and that barely.

One incident that still haunts me occurred in a seedy little hotel in Vancouver's Chinatown. As soon as the hotel door was locked, the man began swinging his fist and chasing me around the small room. I screamed and screamed. But there was no answer to my cries, even from the office manager just down the hall, who made his glass tight, pretending to sleep in his reclining chair. So it was this and screams, screams and this until the man (I see this word loosely because he was more a beast) determined it would be better if he handled me off into his car. To this day I am grateful he wanted to flush me somewhere else. As he hustled me down the shadowy hallway, I broke his solid grip around my arm with strength I did not know I possessed, and I sprinted toward the office. The manager, now being dragged into the noise, threatened to call the police. Only then did the man stop his pursuit of me. He left, warning, "I'll find you again and I will kill you."

My name was ringing from the accuracy of his blows and one of my eyes was puffing up. But I was alive; I was lucky that night. I did not report that terrifying incident to the police and within 15 minutes, just enough to have a little cry for myself, I was back working the street. I learned that evening that



scams in the night in East End Vancouver go unheard and uninvestigated.

Another time, again in Vancouver, a boy of about 18 cornered me in a deserted parking lot, just behind Granville Street. Swinging a tin can and growling, "You good-for-nothing dirty whore," he locked me up against a truck. Never have I used my voice so soothingly as modestly. I talked for my life. Reluctantly, he finally agreed that if I gave him oral sex he would not touch my breasts. I remember too well the fear I felt as he loomed over me like an avenging angel, still gripping the car horn. After that incident, I never took shortcuts at night, though pushing loss they still make me nervous.

I cannot begin to list the indignities visited upon the women I know. The worst incidents I heard about while on the street were never reported to the police. The labels of "whore" and "sleazy" kept us there—and the police were not noted for asking us to speak up. Even today, few women on the street report such vicious incidents, for the very same reason.

Yes, there are more agencies now to assist these women. But the tragic fact is there is no safety net on the street, not today, not ever. When I first started, the only advice I received was from one of the older women who warned me, "Never go to parties. Too dangerous—you never know who is what night, be warning for you." Some protection came from the other working girls, who spread the word of their own bad dates. But this was usually in the form of "a black truck, red interior," "silver-haired, slim man," "suspense music on night shoulder." As you can imagine, those adjectives did not generally help much.

I write this piece in the faith hope women of the street will stop being victimized. But it seems that so long as evil is content to hunt and slaughter marginalized women, society remains unaffiliated and indifferent. The women in Vancouver began vanishing in 1983, but only recently has there been a public will to investigate. This gruesome reality opposes the discrimination women of the street face. It is a shameful social consequence that never seems to change.

*Elizabeth Hudson got off the street in 1973 at age 21. Now the mother of two grown children in Calgary, she has written the novel The Carnation Flower based on her experience.*



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# The Week That Was



## 'This terrible violence'

"Let me help you," one survivor said to a wounded woman lying in the twisted rubble of the World Trade Center. "How can you help me?" the woman told him. "I don't have legs." The rescue of 200 people had, apparently, ended. In a moment, Israeli soldiers launched a direct assault on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. Sixty-two deaths of explosives stuffed with metal shrapnel ensued. "What are you doing

here?" a desk clerk shouted at the intruder. Seconds later the blast ripped through the breeches hall, taking 23 others and wounding more than 120—the second-deadliest suicide attack in 150 years of the second Palestinian intifada.

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here?" a desk clerk shouted at the intruder. Seconds later the blast ripped through the breeches hall, taking 23 others and wounding more than 120—the second-deadliest suicide attack in 150 years of the second Palestinian intifada.

## Power plays

Getting a hint in the House of Commons was looking like a major headache for new Canadian Attorney General Stephen Harper. Calgary Southwest, the safe Alliance riding held until recently by Preston Manning, seemed the obvious choice. But Eric Lipton, a former aide to both Manning and former leader Stockwell Day, already had the riding.

## Massacre in France

A gunman opened fire at a city council meeting in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, killing eight people and wounding 18 others. He was arrested by a group of officers

and later identified as a local resident with a history of psychological problems. The man later jumped to his death from a fourth-story window while being subdued by police. The attack focused attention on the No. 1 issue in the current presidential election campaign: crime. Conservative President Jacques Chirac and socialist Lionel Jospin, the current prime minister, have promised a crackdown

on crime. Conservative President Jacques Chirac and socialist Lionel Jospin, the current prime minister, have promised a crackdown

## Testifying against Mom

Police informer Stéphane Gagné, a former Quebec Hills, Alberta, mom, was testifying in the double-murder trial of gang leader Vincent (Motor) Bouchard. Bouchard is accused of ordering the 1997 killings of two Quebec peace guards in an attempt to destabilize the justice system. Gagné, formerly a loyal follower of Bouchard, has acknowledged taking part in the murders.

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# The shifting PQ

In a speech to the Quebec Community Groups Network, Premier Bernard Landry said that English- and French-speaking Quebecers have achieved linguistic peace. "Quebec is probably the most multilingual place on this planet," Landry said, sidestepping the issue of the decline of French in Montreal and demands by Parti Québécois hardliners for tougher language laws. The next day, Jean-François Chénouette, the province's minister of intergovernmental affairs, said that the question of sovereignty has been placed on the back burner. "In public opinion, ready to explode in an interview debate?" Chénouette asked. "The answer is No." That was a little too much for Landry, who subsequently said it was still his duty to push Quebec independence even if it costs him a few votes.

# The hardest weed

Shirley Kestley, the head of the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP, said the Mounties should have apologized for paper-savvy mistakes at the 1997 APEC summit in Vancouver. "An apology now would still be appropriate," she said. A spokesman for the force said Commissioner Guélamo Saccoccia has accepted that the RCMP made mistakes at the summit, but has no plans to apologize.

# Pointing the finger

Michael Farworth, the former B.C. cabinet minister in charge of gaming, testified that Glen Clark personally intervened to keep Las Vegas, Nevada's casino licence application from being rejected. The former premier is on trial for breach of trust following allegations that he helped Plamondon in return for renovations

close an highway and cottage. Clark has denied any involvement in the casino affair. But Farworth testified that, after a private talk with the premier, he volunteered Plamondon's request, which he wanted to reject. He also said that had he known the extent of Clark's role, he would not have conditionally approved the casino application.

# Change by degrees

Global warming is steadily disrupting the earth, says an article in the current issue of *Nature* magazine. According to the report done by a group of scientists from Europe, the United States and Australia, the earth has warmed by 0.6°C over the last century, a seemingly infinitesimal increase that has already devastated steel mills and helped speed mosquito-borne

diseases such as malaria by widening the insects' habitat. "We are only at an early stage in the projected trends of global warming," the scientists warned.

# A record award

The Ontario Court of Appeal ordered a wealthy salesman to pay \$38,000 in monthly child support to his four children—the highest such award in Canadian history. The 42-year-old man and his wife, whose identities are protected under a publication ban, separated in 1997 when he was making \$5 million a year. Soon after, his income rose to \$8.1 million. The support payments include \$3,000 a month for clothing and gift expenses for the children.

# Ruling against bullying

In a landmark case, a 16-year-old girl was found guilty of criminal harassment for her part in bullying Dawn Marie Wesley, an Abbotsford, B.C., Grade 9 student who was so harassed she committed suicide in November 2000. A second girl was acquitted of aiding threats. The ruling, after an emotional week-long trial, is the first that holds schoolyard bullies to account.

# Discord for Dion

Online Dion stood by her mate, Reed Angell, after he was accused of raping a woman. A lawsuit filed in a Las Vegas court on March 19 by his former girlfriend and her husband, Ar M. Kern, alleges that, in March 2000, Angell, 40, lured Dion to an elevator at the Imperial Palace. Dion followed her into her room and raped her. The suit asks the court to determine unspecified cash settlement the Kiwanis reached with Angell in June 2000. Dion, 34, who opposed prosecution that she and her husband could not publicly defend themselves because of a gag order, said the allegations "don't stand up." The scandal broke just as Dion launched a New Day News Centre, her first attempt after two years of self-imposed seclusion during which she and Angell had their first child.



# Afghan tragedy

A earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck northern Afghanistan, leaving thousands homeless and killing an estimated 1,200 people. That death toll was far less than what

was originally feared, thanks in part, relief officials said, to the primitive, single-story mud-brick houses that are predominant in the area and generally collapsed without burying their occupants. Aid efforts were initially hampered by a strong network of al-Qaeda, but

one with a magnitude of 6.3. Some foreign policy experts said the tragedy gives Western governments a chance to bolster the legitimacy of interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai by ensuring that aid is funneled through his fledgling government.



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## Can child pornography have artistic merit?

In John Folan Sharpe's collection of stories, *Scar / Jack's Storybook: Ragging, Rave and Rantaboo—A Collection of Wholesome Children's Stories*, children are raped, tortured and beaten. They live it so much they come back for more. Appalling? Of course. But a B.C. Supreme Court judge ruled last week that Sharpe's writing, while disgusting, had artistic merit, and found him not guilty on two child pornography charges. The 67-year-old was also sentenced on two other counts of possession of child pornography relating to hundreds of photographs, and may be facing jail time. But it was Justice Duncan Shaw's ruling on Sharpe's writings that ignited a firestorm across the country. Sharpe, wearing a white

hardrock and blue blazer, was judged not to be left the court. The retired city planner, who lives in Vancouver, first came to trial in 1996—Justice Shaw presiding. At the time, the judge found Sharpe guilty of possessing child pornography for the purposes of distribution or sale but acquitted him on charges of simple possession of both photos and his writings, arguing that Canada's child pornography law violated charter guarantees of free expression. The Crown took that decision to the B.C. Court of Appeal, which upheld the earlier ruling. The case then went to the Supreme Court of Canada, which on Jan. 26, 2001, sided with the Crown, striking down the lower court ruling and ordering

a retrial. But while the Supreme Court upheld the child pornography law, it said private works of the imagination should be exempted—and also cited artistic merit as a consideration. In *Through the Wall*, as January, university professors called to testify in his defense likened the stories in *Storybook* to the works of literary giants such as Charles Dickens and James Joyce. But one psychiatrist who works with sex offenders testified that Sharpe's writings, which have been printed in homosexual publications and sold through gay bookstores, including *Little Sisters* in Vancouver, were among the most violent he had ever read. And child advocates now fear the ruling will embolden pedophiles by giving them legitimacy. Bounded Point, president of the children's advocacy

group Beyond Borders, says the courts have "created giant loopholes. Sharpe is writing it for the like-minded individuals and his purpose is a sexual one, not an artistic one." According to John Dixon, president of the B.C. Child Liberties Association, common sense prevailed in Shaw's decision. "Photographs made possible through the sexual use of actual children ought to be prohibited," Dixon said. "But writings ought to be freely distributable among adults no matter what fantastic or imagined content." As Sharpe left court he saw himself as something of a hero. "I look at it as something I have done for my fellow Canadians," he said. "I want to make this a free country."



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# Queen of Hearts

With her twinkly-eyed charm, she was the most beloved royal. But the Queen Mother was also a steely defender of tradition

Cover

BY ROBERT SHEPARD

She survived not rarely a century but an empire. What's more, she did it with an unguile grace and a royal style—an incomparable joie de vivre in the leader's robes as well as the glider—that is unlikely to be seen again. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who died last weekend at Royal Lodge, Windsor, at the age of 101, held many titles in her day. The highest may be the century's most beloved royal. For many admirers she was the royal family—certainly the first royal in ages to have had a truly common touch—and the glue that kept it together in the teeth of abdication, world war and cubed shenanigans.

Not to take anything away from the huge outpouring of grief that surrounded the tragic death of Diana, the almost fairy-tale Princess of Wales, in 1997. But so much of that emotion was driven by the modern cult of celebrity. The Queen Mum was anything but modern and no celebrity. She was simply a charmer. And Britain reacted with an outpouring of sorrow to news of her passing, which came in the wake of a cough and chest infection she contracted over Christmas—and less than two months after the death of her younger daughter Margaret.

A tiny (five-foot-two), doe-eyed Scot, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was the belle of the ball in her early years who captured the heart of a shy, stuttering Prince Albert (and, some say, even his sophisticated older brother Edward, the duxer heir to the throne). Later, she became the young queen who won over mistrusting subjects by tugging it out in London during the worst of the Second World War. And whose fiery wit, even in her declining years, marked the inner rock of responsibility against which myriad araying young royals were measured and found wanting.

The second youngest of 10 children born to the 14th Earl of Strathmore and his wife, Elizabeth could number lungs and pelicans among her Scottish forebears. Some even claimed she named herself by joining the "Imperial Windmill." Certainly it was a marriage based on duty and friendship more than love, at least in the early stages. But though she came from ancient lineage and "lived life in the cocoon of extraordinary privilege," according to biographer Legid Sewad, Elizabeth's life was all nothing short of extraordinary. As the first commoner to be crowned queen consort,

On her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in 2000, the Queen Mother and Prince Charles rode to Buckingham Palace

## Fifty years of royal visits to Canada

After the Queen Mother made her last visit to Canada in 1953, stopping in Ottawa, Toronto and London Ont., her daughter Queen Elizabeth II, put her feet down: "I really must stop Mummy doing this," she said. "But that does it for me!"

For once, to her surprise, the Queen Mother did it was the last of her lengthy overseas tours. A list of the Queen Mum's trips to Canada, and the places she visited:

- 1930:** A 20-day cross-Canada tour with her husband, King George VI.
- 1934:** A five-day visit to Ottawa.
- 1936:** Stopovers in Montreal and Vancouver en route to New Zealand and Australia.
- 1962:** A nine-day visit to Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Upper Canada Village in western Ontario to participate in centenary celebrations of the Black Watch of Canada. She is colourised in this.
- 1964:** Stopovers in Montreal, Vancouver and Victoria en route to Fiji.
- 1965:** Four days in Toronto to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, for which she is also colourised in this.
- 1966:** Stopovers in Vancouver and Victoria en route to Australia and New Zealand and again in Vancouver on the way back.
- 1967:** 12 days in the four Atlantic provinces to take in Centennial celebrations.
- 1974:** Six days in Toronto and Montreal to visit the Toronto Scottish Regiment and present the Queen's Colours to the Black Watch.
- 1979:** A six-day visit starting in Halifax to open the International Gathering of the Gales, and then on to Toronto for the 120th birthday of the Queen's Plate.
- 1981:** Five days starting with an official welcome in Ottawa, then on to Toronto for the Queen's Plate and Niagara-on-the-Lake. But, for the town's biocentennial.
- 1985:** An eight-day visit to Ottawa, then Regina a stop-off at CFB Cold Lake, Alta., because of bad weather, and Edmonton.
- 1987:** A five-day stop to Ottawa and Montreal for the 125th anniversary of the Black Watch.
- 2009:** A six-day visit starting in Ottawa, then on to Toronto for the Queen's Plate and, lastly, for the opening of a new wing at the Parliament Hospital and the unveiling of a statue of Dr. Frederick Banting.



Visiting Canada's Parliament in 1939 with King George VI, in Alberta, 1930 (below left), with Gov. Gen. Georges Vanier and Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, 1962 (below right)



Greeting crowds in Ottawa with Gov. Gen. Jeanne Sauvé, 1989, with officers of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, 1979 (below left), attending the Queen's Plate, 1969 (below right)



she changed the royal family in ways that are both subtle and profound.

She was born on Aug. 4, 1900, "in the high summer of Imperial Britain," according to Seward, but it must have felt more like high noon. Her marriage to Prince Albert, Duke of York—Bowie to his family—was something of a rehabilitation project. He had been evicted home from the First World War, rocky and high-strung. He had a terrible temper. In fact, he confessed, he was totally unprepared to take the throne as George VI when his brother Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 for the "woman I love," the American divorcee Wallis Simpson. George's 15 years on the throne, with Queen Elizabeth constantly at his side, would be a wild ride through a depression, a world war and the dismantling of the once mighty Empire.

Through it all, Queen Elizabeth was a constant source of strength, and the prototype of the modern royal. She may not have invented the walkabout but she perfected it in. On the couple's 1939 visit to Canada and the United States—one of the most dishonest royal tours in history, designed to forge the bonds of potential allies as war loomed—the Queen walked (and adoring crowds 335,000 alone congregated in a Toronto park, 250,000 lined the subway tracks in Winnipeg). At one point, the Queen settled an argument between two women about her nationality—English or Scottish—by saying: "Since we've reached Quebec, I've been a Canadian." Her smiling wags earned as beguile critics nations. "I find it hard to know when not to smile," she told one inquirer. A U.S. paper called her "The Queen of Hearts" 50 years before Disney would acquire the same name.

Looking back, many now say the British monarchy might not have survived without the Queen Mum. It was tremendously unpopular after the abdication and at the beginning of the Second World War, when George VI and Elizabeth were seen in appearance, more concrete with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain than his building successes. Winston Churchill. But they certainly came around to Churchill. Their determination to stay in London during the Blitz—with their two children, princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, at nearby Windsor Castle—endowed them to their embowed subjects. And when the Luftwaffe bombed Buckingham Palace, destroying an entire wing, Elizabeth's response—"I'm glad we've been bombed. It makes me feel I can look the East End in



Opposite page: classic portrait taken for her silver wedding anniversary by renowned photographer Cecil Beaton, in 1948. This page, clockwise, from above: at the King's coronation with princesses Margaret (left) and Elizabeth, with Prince Charles, 1976, during the 80s, her wedding, 1962, on her pet pony, Bobo, as a child

Photo: Camera Press/Photomontage; Opposite page: Cecil Beaton/Camera Press; Right: Photomontage





Celebrating her 101st birthday on Aug. 4 with Charles, William, Harry and Princess Margaret (in wheelchair), with Diana and Prince Harry in 1994, greeting her daughter, Elizabeth II

the face"—was the spark of a love affair between the Windsors and the populace. "It was the war that made us," she said.

A dorky home from the very first, she walked through bombed-out London in her custom-designed hats and dresses, determined to show to hard-hat inhabitants that the British spirit could not be broken. She carried her gas mask in a velvet bag with the colour changed regularly to match her gown. This was her character. If there is one indulgence her family and subjects have granted her, it is her extravagance. All her life she gave in to her passion for horse racing and entertaining, not to mention music. Alone among the royals, she regularly whined through her \$1.5-million annual allowance from the treasury, and then some. She had in recent years a staff of 90 and was an insatiable traveller, with 15 visits to Canada under her belt.

But probably her most expensive passion was the elegant refurbishing and maintenance of the Castle of May on a lovely Scottish firm where, following the death of her husband in 1952, she would repair for a few weeks each year. According to Seaward, her biographer, the Castle of May was where the Queen Mother went to watch the growing of the seasons—and to indulge her sorrows. If so, it was a true retreat, for her public character was certainly one of cheery resilience. Friends have said she had an almost unnatural ability to weather storms and ignore her troubles and gaiety and planned events.

That sturdy placid is mostly what Britons saw in the Queen Mother, but they did occasionally see her soul, especially when it came to the monarchy and tradition. "Wilksa Stripsen brought their reason" (Elizabeth would never forgive her for denouncing the throne and drawing her Borneo urns a job he wasn't ready for.) Diana, too. The late princess once said of the Queen Mother: "She is not as the others to be at all. She is tough and interfering and she has few feelings." The Queen Mother's cautious response to a friend the week after Diana was killed: "Who would believe she could be even more odious as death than she was in life?" That could not be said of Elizabeth. Never daunted, she suffered unflinchingly through two hip replacements and, last summer, a bout of arthritis that required a transfusion and brought her finally to her aid. She had always devoted her formidable energies to her husband and her country. And if she kept a link back to enjoy herself at the same time, who would quibble? **50**

# PROGRESS



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Let's Make Cancer History

## A Revolution in Cancer Research

**W**hen he's posed at the peak of a downhill ski run or contemplating a major equity investment, Peter Hanley always calculates his odds of success.

That's why he leapt at the opportunity to participate in Dr. Neil Fleshner's nutritional study of men with pre-cancerous prostate cells.

"I knew there was a 50-50 chance I'd receive a supplement containing soy protein, vitamin E and selenium," says the 49-year-old Okaville father of two. "That option was a lot more attractive than doing nothing."

Last year, Hanley, a partner in a Toronto investment counselling firm, discovered he had high-grade prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN), a known precursor to prostate cancer. Fleshner's team at the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre is studying the possibility that the supplements may stop the pre-cancerous cells from developing into prostate cancer.

More than 250 men with similar conditions are being randomly assigned to receive either the supplement or an inactive powder that looks and tastes the same. "It's a lot like chalk," Hanley says of the lumpy, sand-coloured mixture he downs with

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"It's a lot like chalk," Hanley says of the lumpy, sand-coloured mixture he downs with water twice daily. "I don't enjoy it but I'm definitely not complaining."

supplements may prevent it. These results could significantly improve our ability to prevent prostate cancer."

Hanley's work exemplifies the groundbreaking research being funded by the Canadian Cancer Society. Across the country, scientists are conducting studies that are revolutionizing our

understanding of cancer and its causes. "Working with its research partner, the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society funds projects ranging from

fundamental molecular studies, to prevention research to major clinical trials. The Society is the largest charitable funder of cancer research in Canada and its support has contributed to a decline in overall mortality rates during the last decade.

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## VOICE FOR A HEALTHY CANADA

**It's our responsibility to speak out on your behalf.**

The Canadian Cancer Society is this country's independent voice on emerging scientific and ethical issues related to cancer such as gene patenting and the use of stem cells in research. We're also examining the link between cancer and the environment. We care about a healthy Canada and advocate ways to make it happen.

Our efforts, like lobbying to have health warnings on cigarette packages made larger and more graphic, have proven successful.

According to a recent study by the Canadian Cancer Society, the blunt

warnings placed on cigarette packages in Canada beginning in 2001 are doing the job of discouraging smokers from lighting up. Forty-four per cent of smokers said the warnings increased their motivation to quit smoking.

The legislation is now having a ripple effect. The World Health Organization is developing the world's first global treaty devoted entirely to controlling the use of tobacco. Graphic warnings, like those used on Canadian packaging, might become a worldwide requirement through this treaty. In the meantime, Brazil has already implemented a warning system similar to Canada's.

Advocacy is creating a healthier future.





Nature: Marilyn Simms  
Age: 59 years young  
Goal: The Ottawa River

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treatment by reversing this process means that a large number of children with this form of eye cancer are now cured without radiation or removal of their eyes.

"The investment in cancer research is paying off with exciting, potentially staggering developments," says Dr. Michael Wronick, director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada research program.

"We have never been so close to understanding what cancer is and how it works. We're on the threshold of a new era that will produce dramatically improved methods of detection, diagnosis, treatment and even prevention."

The research revolution is the result of two decades of studies aimed at knowing what makes a cell cancerous. "Cancer is actually more than 200 different diseases, so the challenge has been enormous," says Dr. Gerald Johnston, head of the department of microbiology and immunology at Dalhousie University. "By way of analogy, if you want to fix a car, you first have to understand how the car works, and then you have to understand what goes wrong to give rise to problems."

As knowledge converges to create a clearer picture of

what happens when cancer arises, there is growing excitement about the future.

"More people will be cured, while others will live with cancer as a chronic condition, such as diabetes," says Wronick. "For many cancers, we will turn this into a disease that you live with, rather than a disease you die from. But more importantly, we'll be able to help more people avoid cancer in the first place."

Julie White, CEO of the Canadian Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute of Canada, says, "With the pace of research today, the next decade looks very bright. The battle is by no means won, however. There is still a great deal we don't understand about cancer."

The efforts of volunteers and the generosity of Canadians have a lot to do with the progress in cancer research to date, says White. But it's worth noting that half of the projects deemed worthy of funding every year must be rejected because of a lack of funds.

"We have achieved so much, but we have to keep the momentum going," she says. ■



## CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are the most important way to test new approaches to treating, managing and even preventing cancer. They are a fundamental part of the Canadian Cancer Society's research efforts. Some clinical trials currently underway include:

- Dr. George Bormann of Toronto's Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre is investigating whether there is a connection between the side effects of radiation and the time of day at which the treatment is given to patients with head and neck cancer. He is conducting a clinical trial involving more than 200 patients in 13 cancer centres across Canada.

- A new anti-cancer drug designed to target cancer cells while leaving healthy cells untouched is being tested in people with advanced pancreatic and advanced non-small-cell lung cancer. More than 1,100 people will take part in studies examining whether the drug, Torisel, will stem the growth of their tumours while not causing common chemotherapy side effects.

## PREVENTION

Up to 70 per cent of cancers are preventable. A non-smoking, active lifestyle, along with a balanced diet, can reduce cancer risk. The Canadian Cancer Society contributes to research to help Canadians make healthy choices, including the following two studies:

- What causes teenagers to become regular smokers after experimenting with cigarettes? This is the focus of research by the University of British Columbia's Dr. Chris Laviolette (pictured above). Most smokers start before they are 18. Laviolette's work will be used to develop better intervention strategies.
- Dr. Christine Friedreich of the Alberta Cancer Board/University of Calgary recently found that postmenopausal women who were active throughout their lives reduced their risk of breast cancer by 42 per cent. She is now studying the connection between physical activity and prostate, endometrial and colorectal cancer.

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## SERGEANT AMONG A FORCE OF SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

After almost 20 years with the RCMP, stopping bad guys in their tracks was old hat to Sgt. Richard Crooks. But cancer wasn't the kind of foe he could stop a pair of handcuffs on.

After being diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2000 at the age of 40, Crooks learned the value of talking to someone who had faced the same diagnosis.

"My first thought was 'what's going to happen to me?'" says the now 42-year-old Lunenburg, Sask., resident. "I also had some really personal questions about it."

Today, Crooks is a volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society's CancerConnection, a free telephone support service available in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Newfoundland, and soon rolling out across the country. One of the many support services provided by the Canadian Cancer Society, CancerConnection matches people facing a cancer diagnosis with trained volunteers who have had similar experiences, either as survivors or caregivers. Matches are made within 48 hours and all long-distance charges are covered by the Society for as long as you choose to stay in contact with your match.

CancerConnection "is exactly what I was looking for," says Crooks, who has been cancer-free for more than a year. "I obviously got through it and I hope I can help other people."

## You Make the Difference

Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, the Canadian Cancer Society is making cancer history.

You can support the fight against cancer through your contributions in April, and year-round by participating in special events like the Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life, through estate planning and through in-memory donations. You can also support the Society by donating your Petro-Canada Petro-Points or participating at a charity.

Learn more about how to donate at our Web site, [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca), or call the Canadian Cancer Society's toll-free information service at 1-888-939-3333.

## A CANCER LIFELINE

Isabelle Wilson believes the Canadian Cancer Society's information service played a major role in her recovery. Now, she spends those days a week returning the favour.

Wilson lost her left leg to a rare aggressive tumour in 1997. Desperate to learn more about her condition, she contacted our information service for advice. And when it appeared that she wasn't receiving appropriate follow-up treatment, the information service helped her find a local specialist for her type of tumour.

"You can't put a price on that kind of support," she says. "Despite a very dark and sad prognosis, today I am considered to be in remission."

A Montreal-based molecular biologist, Wilson now also works as an information specialist with the Canadian Cancer Society—providing information about all aspects of cancer.

"It's my turn to guide others," says the 34-year-old mother. "Needless to say, I put my heart and soul into it."

The Canadian Cancer Society's information service is Canada's only toll-free bilingual source of cancer information. Trained and caring specialists provide information about cancer and community resources, which helps newly diagnosed patients and their families to understand their condition and act as informed members of their healthcare team.

You can reach the Canadian Cancer Society's information service toll-free at 1-888-939-3333 or by email at [info@ccs.ccsnet.ca](mailto:info@ccs.ccsnet.ca).

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Our toll-free information service is just a phone call away, at 1-888-939-3333.

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The Big Three: Chrétien, Mulroney and Wilson. (Opp) Wilson hopes to deal with

## THAT ETHICS THING

Can the Liberals sidestep the tough questions?

BY JOHN GEDDES in Ottawa

**E**thical questions have long plagued, at least perceived, Jean Chrétien's government. The Prime Minister's own dealings with businessmen in his riding generated the hottest sparks in the full 2000 election campaign—but Chrétien rode through that controversy all but unscathed. Still, a spate of troubling revelations so far this year suggest that he may not be able to indefinitely sidestep questions of patronage and conflict of interest.

Three related issues could bring the apparently lax ethical standards governing federal politicians under new scrutiny.

1. **Leadership races.** Nowhere is the free-wheeling quality of Canadiana politics more evident than in a battle to become leader of a party. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, the federal chief electoral officer, has repeatedly called for the Elections Act to be amended to leadership races. The main result would be to force leadership candidates to disclose who gives them money. The rules for doing so are now left

entirely up to the parties. "Transparency in financing such a contest is equally as important as it is in an election," Kingsley has written.

But for now, any transparency is largely unenforced. Leads from Liberal party headquarters led to revelations last month that a Paul Martin fundraiser, Calgary lawyer James Palmer, was also advising the Finance Department on tax policy for the oil and gas industry. Should a Martin campaign fundraiser also be under contract to his department? The federal ethics consultant, Howard Wilson, told *Maclean's* he discussed the matter with Martin and concluded that the Palmer situation "arose in pure innocence." However, Wilson allowed that the relationship did "raise the possibility of the appearance of a conflict of interest." So Palmer's work with Finance was discontinued.

This case and others have prompted Wilson to draft proposals for how cabinet ministers' personal, leadership aspirations should behave. He plans to present those guidelines to Chrétien in about two weeks, and expects them to be made public. But don't expect a set of rules stringent enough to satisfy the government's critics.

David Conacher, coordinator of Democracy Watch, an advocacy group for government ethics, says overlap between partisan political goals and official government work is not going to go away. "In a democratic society you can't have people who represent private interests building close ties and working relationships with politicians who have power," Conacher says.

Wilson's view is far less strict. For example, he has already decided that cabinet ministers working the Liberal leadership should be allowed to raise money from companies their department directly regulates. "As long as the fundraising campaign is broad-based, and is not targeted at the clients of a minister's department, then it is not a difficulty," Wilson says. How he, or anyone else, would know whether the usually secretive leadership fundraising efforts are broad-based or targeted, though, is hard to fathom.

2. **Cabinet ministers' debt.** The issue of how those pocketing to succeed Christian before is only one aspect of a swirl of ethical questions surrounding the power of cabinet ministers. The money case of Alfonso Gagliano, the veteran public works

minister banished in January to an appointment as ambassador to Denmark, illustrates at least two. At the time Christian dispatched him to his diplomatic perch, Gagliano was under fire for using his influence to get jobs for friends at Canada Lands Co., a Crown corporation that answered to Public Works. Then, last month, news that under Gagliano the department paid \$1.1 million for two nearly identical reports from Gropacorp, a Montreal company with close connections to the Liberal party, raised questions about the potential to use such contracts to funnel federal cash to partisan backers.

Gagliano's replacement, Don Boudia, has asked the auditor general to examine the reports to decide if Ottawa should demand a refund from Gropacorp. But such an audit will hardly address the deeper questions about the possibility of ministers using their offices for personal and partisan purposes. One problem: the government continues to routinely "outsource" many professional services contracts, like Gropacorp's consulting work, rather than putting them up for competitive bids to ensure propriety. And there are no clear rules restricting a minister's dealings with Crown corporations. But Wilson promises to fill this vacuum soon. He says he has discussed guidelines for ministers' dealings with government-owned enterprises several times with Deputy Prime Minister John Manley, and is close to finalizing them.

3. **The ethics consultant.** With his guidelines for both leadership races and ministers in the works, Wilson may find his own role emerging as an underlying issue. Chrétien established the position in 1996—but broke a 1993 election promise to have the new ethics consultant report directly to Parliament. Instead, Wilson answered to Chrétien alone. He has often been derided as more lapdog than watchdog. And just how closely he works with the Prime Minister is coming to light in an ongoing court case launched by Democracy Watch.

The group is challenging Wilson's ruling that there was nothing wrong when BCE Inc., a giant Montreal company that lab-

ored Ottawa on many issues, gave the Prime Minister the rare gift of a golf game with Tiger Woods last September at the Bell Canadian Open Pro-Am. Among documents filed by the government with the Federal Court of Canada are a memo Wilson wrote, noting that in an evening telephone conversation with Chrétien, he alerted the Prime Minister to media inquiries about the golf game before the story broke. Other documents include a briefing note from Wilson on how the Prime Minister should respond if asked about the BCE gift in the House, and a letter from him reminding Chrétien to sign a mandatory disclosure document on accepting the dream golf game.

Overall, these documents leave little doubt that Wilson functions as part of Chrétien's political staff—not as a detached adjudicator. With questions about power trumping principle in federal politics again coming to the fore, the absence of such an independent referee could suit any lay by the government to close up the latest questions about its ethical standards.

Wilson's ruling that there was nothing wrong when BCE Inc., a giant Montreal company that lab-

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The group is challenging Wilson's ruling that there was nothing wrong when BCE Inc., a giant Montreal company that lab-

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## Recognize the warning signs — and treat them

Alzheimer's disease affects one family in four in Canada. The good news is that Alzheimer's devastating effects can now be treated with medication that delays the progression of the symptoms of the disease.

Getting a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is like dropping a bomb on a family. All of a sudden, plans for retirement and the golden years go up in smoke.

**Recognize the warning signs.** Alzheimer's disease appears gradually, sometimes catching you unaware. There are several signs to watch for: loss of memory, disorientation, language problems and difficulty doing everyday tasks. When you see the warning signs, it's time to see your family physician.

**Treat the disease.** Alzheimer's is a disease

of the brain. Through research to understand Alzheimer's, it was discovered that people with the disease had a common deficiency in an important neurotransmitter called acetylcholine. It is believed that creating people with Alzheimer's with a cholinesterase inhibitor compensates for the acetylcholine deficiency that appears to cause certain symptoms, such as memory loss.

**There is hope.** Although there is no cure yet for Alzheimer's disease, the future



looks bright. A new medication was put on the market nearly four years ago that attacks the symptoms of the disease in the early to moderate

stages. This treatment has been shown to slow down the decline of a person's mental faculties, like memory, and enable them to continue with their activities of daily living.

De it now if you are among those who must provide care for a parent, spouse or other loved one with Alzheimer's, you should know that there is medication that could help in treating the symptoms of the disease. Talk to your family physician about it today.

For more information, call 1-888-878-6444, or visit the Website: [www.alzheimercentre.ca](http://www.alzheimercentre.ca)



## THE VELVET FOG OF ONTARIO POLITICS

Consultation over confrontation seems to be the Ernie Eves mantra

BY ROBERT SHEPPARD

Now there are four. The ascension of Ernie Eves to Ontario's top job, if ascension is the right word—he just squared them in the muddy middle of a leadership race, trying not to say much—will make him the fourth serving premier to inherit the job on someone else's radar. And stay a herd—what's a third general election in sight? Does no one care about these sorts of obnoxious sayings?

Eves, in fact, has formally promised not to send Ontario to the polls for at least another 14 to 18 months. He means this so be reassuring. Next door in Quebec, Bernard Landry, like the NDP's Lorne Calvert in Saskatchewan and Liberal Roger Grimes in Newfoundland, has already been governing for over a year on his predecessor's mandate. Though there are signs Grimes may be getting up for his own, he's recently promised a royal commission on how the feds are shortchanging Newfoundland.

In the case of Eves, the former minister in the heady years of slash-and-change politics returns to the fray with a little extra baggage. For the past 13 months he's been enjoying a choice Bay Street job, a \$78,000+ aerospace package from the legislature on

top of an \$900,000 pension payout for his 28 years of service, and a lovely house in upscale Rosedale with his new love, former cabinet colleague Isabel Huxton, the savvy chairwoman of TVOntario. Throw in many divorce proceedings, during which Eves admitted to spending \$25,000 a year on clothes, and this is not the usual office-working around of someone who sees himself as an ordinary guy from Simsbury. Of course, this is Ontario after the Mike Harris revolution. A what-me-worry attitude is in the air.

Who cares that 33,000 public servants are on strike? Or that xenophobic response times have shot up again? Or that more vice-principals and librarians are facing the axe? Few even seem ruffled that after seven years of phenomenal growth, the provincial debt is \$26 billion more than when Harris came to power in 1995. Or that Ontario is looking a \$4-billion deficit in the teeth. There's no budgetary dose yet. There's not even a finance minister.

The incumbent, flame-thrunder Jim Flaherty, is vacationing in Mexico, leaving his wounds after losing the leadership to Eves. So what's that called he now has a man of no conviction and a "pole-jerk" invitation of Liberal opponent Dalton McGuinty? For the sake of unity, Flaherty

may even get his old job back. Consultation over confrontation is the Eves mantra. He seems to want to be the McTormad, the silver fox of Ontario politics.

Judging by the press coverage, however, there are at least some important issues to be plumbbed. One is whether the 55-year-old Eves will change his well-gilded bunriddle (he's given up the French outfit but still looks like the guy who drove the gravy cart during the Harris revolution, what he kind of did). The other is whether he can mend the Turly's ideological splits.

An absolute party vet—with a temper but genuine compassion that transcends partisan lines—Eves was the caucus and the solvents daily. Flaherty had the acrobatics who convinced and ran the Harris campaign; they made a show of not moving to the winner at the bell. Get inside the pension walk, mind you, and a bigger concern might be why, in a governing party with 161,025 signed-up members, fewer than half bothered to vote and, of these, 10,994 drifted away before the second and final ballot. Maybe that's why an election's on hold. The fear—or is it the hope—that there are so few people out there paying enough attention.



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# MoneySense

For Canadians who want more

# THE BEASTMASTER

Peter May builds dinosaurs for a living, and museums just can't get enough

BY IAN CRUICKSHANK

It is the smell that hits you first—a peculiar mix of epoxy and meat with a whiff of walking sand. And there is something else—something funky. “That’s probably the whole ribs over those in the tub,” says Peter May, whose dark goatee and baggy red sweater make him look like a jazz musician. He motions toward an enclosed tank. Inside, dozens of Flintstone-sized ribs, from a 40-ton right whale, are making an water so much the oil from the bones.

The odd colors and muttering whale ribs aren’t the only curious things in the old shoe warehouse on the edge of Bramsville. One, 50 km east of Hamilton, May’s company, Research Casting International Ltd., is the pre-eminent builder of dinosaur (or museum) around the world. This year, as well as reconstructing the odd whale, the company will cast more than \$2 million making fibreglass casts of fossilized dinosaur and prehistoric mammal bones and then building life-sized models of the beasts for more than a dozen museums around the world. Office one corner a technician—one of 20 employed by the company—is putting the final touches on a mammoth skeleton that will go to the Indiana State Museum. Next to it is an trilobite, a 40-million-year-old, four-legged ancestor of the modern whale, which is bound for the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

The reconstruction technique developed by May, 66, and his team allow them to replicate a dinosaur down to the finest bone. About 10 per cent of May’s business involves constructing dinosaurs from original bones but due to the scarcity of the real thing, and the cost of making new fossils, May’s main focus is on recreations. Casts from around the world can’t seem to get enough. The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Oklahoma City is among the institutions that have come calling. Cautious they asked May to build their on-campus exhibit for the museum’s

official opening in 2000. The 27-m-long *Spinosaurus* took 1½ years to construct: two years later it continues to attract thousands of visitors a month. “We looked at a few other people,” said May’s cousin Nick Caplowitz. “But we knew of Peter’s work. He did a fantastic job.”

May’s three-storey office is decorated with posters of old dinosaur movies—*The Lost World*, *One Million Years B.C.* and others. Poking out of a box on top of a filing cabinet is the ear of a 100-million-year-old tiger—one many looking incisor curving over the edge. May’s laptop sits on a desk in the corner of the room. As a screen saver, he uses a picture of his two daughters, Amelia, 19, and Jacqueline, 11, dressed in their hockey uniforms. (His son Alex, 17, also plays hockey.) “I think we have a real chance this year to win the provincial with Amelia’s team,” says May, smacking his guitar. He has persuaded his wife, Jerry, that he will leave the chin hair if Amelia wins.

As May considers the face of his beard, Sue, the world’s most expensive tyrannosaurus, stands down at him. At 12.5 m in length and standing 4.5 m high, Sue is the largest T-Rex skeleton ever discovered. She was found in 1990 in South Dakota. In a public auction, the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago paid \$12.5 million for the fossilized bones. McDonald’s Corp. and Walt Disney Co. raised the bulk of the money; the Field Museum paid May \$750,000 to make seven copies of Sue, including one for Disney, two for McDonald’s and another—the one still in residence at Bramsville—for a private collector.

May’s crew took moulds from the original bones and cast them in plastic. Then they spread the pieces out on the warehouse floor and, like a giant jigsaw puzzle, slowly assembled the models along backbones of steel rods. Staring up into Sue’s foot-sized jaws—they could crunch 250 kg of meat in a single bite—May smiles wryly and says, “We do get involved in some pretty interesting projects.”

As they come in, his reputation widens. “It’s safe to say May is the best in this business,” says Hans-Dieter Sues, vice-president for collections and research at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. “There are two or three other companies, but most museums consider Research Casting the first place to stop.” Since 1990, May’s firm has built over 250 prehistoric beasts. “I think people love dinosaurs so much because they are like reptilian creatures, almost like dragons,” says May. “It’s hard to believe these enormous, ferocious creatures once roamed our world.”

Born in Oldham, a village near Manchester, England, May stumbled into the world of dinosaur reconstruction by accident. His family emigrated to Hamilton in 1964. He later attended the University of Guelph, where he specialized in sculpting and earned a B.A. in fine arts. But after he graduated in 1977, one of his professors arranged an interview at the ROM, which had an opening for a junior technician in its vertebrate paleontology department. Within a few weeks, May was out in the Alberta badlands, excavating dinosaur fossils. He earned out to be a natural. “You have to know about paleontology and how the bones fit together,” he says. “But you also have to be a sculptor, a welder and know how to mould and cast.”

After seven years at the ROM, May was offered the chance to help establish the new re-opened Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology near Drumheller, Alta., which opened to worldwide acclaim in 1985. As senior technician, he was in charge of moulding and casting bones for almost all of the original displays. He returned to the ROM in 1986, and a year later started Research Casting in his spare time. “I met a lot of people from museums around the world when I was working at the Tyrrell, and they began asking me if I could build their dinosaurs,” May says. “They just didn’t have the facilities or the trained staff to do the work in-house.”

By 1991, he had landed three major

## Canada and the World

contracts with institutions in Japan, England and the United States. "Suddenly, I had orders for a million dollars' worth of dinosaurs," he says. "So I left my job at the RCM and cranked up Research Casting full-time." One of those contracts was with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, which wanted May to build a *borissaurus*, a giant herbivore.

May and his crew dove down to New York City to pick up the fossilized bones. They were far too heavy for a free-standing model—the leg bones alone, May remembers, "weighed 180 kg and took four of us to move it." May took latex moulds and then cast the new bones in fiberglass and polystyrene foam. The five-storey-high model was too tall to assemble inside May's warehouse, and had to be constructed using a crane in the parking lot. The bone was assembled in the remnants of the museum, where it continues to be a huge hit. It is the tallest free-standing dinosaur ever constructed, weighing one ton and standing 15 m high and 24 m long.

May's next high-profile assignment came in 1991, when he read that Steven Spielberg was about to make a movie about dinosaurs based on Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*. "I sent him a letter saying, Here is what we do. If you need a skeleton, give us a call—and they did," May says. A month later, May flew in Hollywood, and ended up helping create a scene in which a marauding *T. Rex* destroys a museum-style display—complete with *T. Rex* skeleton. With Spielberg's cooperation, May also put together an exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History that included dinosaurs, prepared clips from the movie, it opened on June 11, 1993, the same day as the film, and attracted more than 400,000 people within three months.

May's company has branched out into other areas. Throughout 1996 and 1999, working under contract to the American Museum of Natural History, members of his crew modelled in Perspex to make casts of a skeleton in the city that was engulfed by a eruption of Mount Vesuvius about 2,000 years ago. For the same reason, May's company also made models of geological formations in Hawaii and on the coastline of Scotland. The Scottish assignment was particularly grueling. May and his crew modelled down the side of a cliff and, suspended 30 m above the ground,



Installing a *borissaurus* at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa (upper left); *borissaurus* skeleton at the American Museum of Natural History in New York (upper right); checking out a May installation at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla.

applied rubber casts to sections that reveal 20 million years of geological history.

May recently expanded his horizons again, this time with the modern world's last great giant, the whale. Working for the RCM, he travelled to Prince Edward Island last December to haul away a 26-ton sperm whale. "According to the necropsy," says May, "it was just a stranger with raggy hormones that went bumbling up the beach and got caught on a sandbar." The bones were brought back to Bensenville to be cast, and the model will eventually be mounted at the RCM. As well, in November the RCM sent May to the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to autopsy a right whale, of which there are only 300 left in the world. With a heavy storm brewing, May had mere hours to work. "We arrived at 3 p.m. and by 6 p.m.

the storm hit," he recalls. "Luckily we got the skeleton off in time. Otherwise, it would have been washed out to sea."

New opportunities are waiting. When the final phase of the Three Gorges Dam project on the Yangtze River is completed in 2003, many skeletons will be lost as the dam begins to fill. A Chinese archeology institute invited May to visit the area in January and ensure a poem etched into the rock above the river about 300 years ago. The institute asked him to make a mould of it before it is submerged. "But I think we can actually cut away the rock and save the original," says May. "That's why I love what we do so much. Every day we do something new, in some kind of new challenge." And museums from around the world just keep calling.

By Michael Sauter in Toronto

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## WAKE UP, CANADA

A reminder that government is 'us' and not 'them'

BY ALLAN R. GREGG

**A**ny poll I might care to conduct would find that Canadians, virtually to a person, say they want benevolent socialism, the environment protected and disparities between the richest and poorest reduced. How then do we explain the consistent presence of the homeless in our midst? Or the systematic degradation of our environment and scarce resources? The stunning accumulation of individual wealth in the face of Third World poverty? Even more curiously, if this is the kind of society the public truly wants, why is there no hue and cry over the persistence and deepening of these problems?

The answer, it appears, lies in a disconnect that has developed between those things we value and the world we are presented to tolerate. While huge majorities may give these call-for-action responses in polls, they rarely show these sentiments in public debate or translate them into direct demands for action. Rather, what we find

is a public that has come to accept that the homeless are just "there," that the deterioration of the environment is part of the normal course of events, and that the wealth gap is just, well, something that exists.

Canadians still know what kind of community and society they want, but seem to have stopped asking for it. In direct parallel, it is no coincidence that poll after poll shows they have concluded that government is unable or unwilling to produce the results they desire anyway.

This analysis leads to a disturbing conclusion: that the electorate believes what government does has little bearing on its lives or impact on its communities. When this occurs, the people cease to make demands on government to address even the problems they clearly recognize. From there, it is a small step until we stop even asking what kind of community we want and value. In the end, we cascade toward a society of inconsequentialism.

This process seems to have had its root in the late 1970s when the great expectations

of post-war liberalism began to show some early cracks. The mission of a senseless welfare state failed to eradicate poverty; a collection of publicly owned agencies and corporations were unable to deliver services or compete effectively with their private-sector counterparts; and the limitless opportunities of the '50s and '60s began to dissipate at the same time as the public sector accelerated its interventionist activities. The public response was not (as many at the time believed) an ideological shift to the right but, more pragmatically and simply, to conclude "the old rules don't work."

An increasingly well-educated electorate became less differential and more defiant toward traditional authority figures. An aggressive press, fuelled by greater emphasis on investigative journalism, routinely exposed the shortcomings, failures and misuses of our elected leaders. By the mid-'80s, those two forces combined to generate a wholesale loss of faith in politicians and the political process. Where once prime ministers and members of Parliament were venerated, they became the source of jokes or disdain. Where once the electorate looked to government as the arbiter and often the main provider of the public good, it now associated the state with waste, inefficiency and ineffectiveness. Rather than looking to government to guide the public interest, all the electorate demanded of it was more "efficiency."

Whatever their failures, however, politicians and governments have never lost the ability to stand the shifting public mood. Rather than piddle against the current of public opinion, government responded by scaling back the scope of its activities. For the past 15 years, where governments have made major changes to the status quo, more often than not it has been to undo the intransigence of past administrations.

The current health-care debate is a case in point. Instead of focusing on the open-system system desired to meet the needs of the population, the debate has too often revolved around the "sustainability" of the existing system and what services have to be dropped to meet this end. On issue after issue, the discourse fails to address the fundamental tenet out of public policy—namely, how do proposed changes meet the public good?

And this sad mode of governing accelerated the decline in faith in public institutions? For from it, I suspect, it has simply re-

### Essay

forced the notion that governments are incapable of acting as positive agents of social change. This point of view, of course, risks the intransigence of those who benefit most from the withdrawal of the state from the public sphere—the business community and the wealthy. The result, too, has become convinced that government is an institution that "suffers" rather than "does" things. They are themselves as the group most likely to hear the brunt of dismantling and "cutting," and therefore share the perverse perspective that the governments that govern best govern—i.e., do less—best.

A new generation of activists, promoting against everything from child labour practices and environmental degradation to globalization and restrictions on gay rights, has also chosen to eschew politics, party and Parliament. The protest movement channelled its activities into single-issue groups, non-governmental organizations and other vehicles of so-called "civic culture." When I asked Naomi Klein, author of *No Logo*, the best-selling screed against growing corporations, about (for me) this curious dismissal of government, her answer was deceptively direct. In her entire adult life, she replied, she could not recall one government initiative that she admired and was proud of. In the eyes of voters under 35 who share her passion for societal improvement, the state not only fails to share their values but actively obstructs those who oppose them.

After the Canadians who grew up associating government with medicine, the Canada Pension Plan, Parris-Canada or QJAG Security (others a new generation of voters viewed as a diet of cynicism, privatization, layoffs and mismanagement). Fifteen years of government responding to the lowered and cynical expectations of the public with even lower and more cynical performance have done little more than widen the chasm between it and the electorate.

Should we care? Are we not experiencing the triumph of the market? Are we not reaching triumphantly toward globalization? Has the inherent inefficiency of private efficiency over public shirked not been demonstrated beyond dispute? We are told repeatedly by those who have a voice—our politicians, press and business leaders—that these forces are inevitable, these facts unchangeable. In a time of moral relativism where every idea, behaviour and habit is generally considered as ac-

ceptible as any other, any challenge to these "invariants" is deemed as heretical, at worst delusional. Within this intellectual shield, dissent is rare and silence has become consent.

This is precisely why we should be alarmed. For this is how we come (as our year-end poll in Montreal has shown) to support a measure such as the new anti-smoking law, yet at the same time believe the authorities will abuse it and apply its sanctions to non-innocent activities. This is the by-product of a society that has disconnected itself from public life. When we cease to see government actions as either good or bad, we no longer give any consideration to how society might be and, instead, come to accept society simply as it is.

The absence of moral discourse or ethical considerations as a central part of governing leaves both citizens and government without a compass or creed that defines a nation. Without a sense that government actions will produce "right" or "wrong" consequences, the fabric of society begins to unravel. Identity with the larger community of which we are part is overtaken by regional, religious or ethnic loyalties. Notions of the public good are subordinated to the pursuit of self-interest.

The fact is that, no matter how some may try to persuade us otherwise, the state has power. The political process maintains a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence. Parliament can, if it wishes, declare that men are women or that dogs can vote. Only through the state can we allocate necessary scarce resources. To make that case is not a polemic or wish on my part. This is an inherent part of the bargain we make when we give up our unbridled individual freedom in exchange for collective safety, stability and civic society.

This agreement gives the state the authority to do evil, as well as good. And because this bargain is the essential connection between the governed and those who govern, it makes the state its most abhorrent and can never be irrelevant to its citizens. The state and governments are not "them," they are "us." When we lose sight of or choose to ignore this fundamental truth, we lose our capacity to organize society toward the ultimate ethical goal—namely, generating the largest good for the greatest number. We lose, in effect, a free and democratic society. ■

Allan R. Gregg is a chairman of the polling and consulting firm The Strategic Council.

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# Can the Aspers do it?

Izzy Asper loves his newspapers. But they've brought big headaches.

BY KATHERINE MACKLEM

When Leonard Asper sits down with his morning papers, he doesn't read them just for the news, or to pick up the latest sports scores. Not any more. These days, three of them land on the doorstep at his home on exclusive Wellington Crescent in Winnipeg: the *National Post*, his family's flagship, which he owns; Winnipeg's *Free Press*, the local broadsheet, which he wishes he owned but doesn't; and the afternoon *Globe and Mail*, Canada's other national newspaper, owned by BCE Inc. As president and CEO of Canada's dominant newspaper owner, CanWest Global Communications Corp., Asper says he now studies these papers, and others, intently. He looks at how they are organized, what they are saying, how many sections they have and where everything is placed. "I scrutinize them now," he says. "Definitely."

The scrutiny is happening both ways. Journalists in newspapers across CanWest's chain of newspapers and others outside it—included, much of the broader communications business, policymakers, regulators, not to mention everyday readers—are watching to see what Asper and his father Izzy, the founder and executive chairman of CanWest, will do with the assets. Bought in 2000 for \$3.2 billion, they formed out of the last in a flurry of mergers that completely overhauled the ownership base of



Asper, 61, is still in control of the debt while negotiating in Phoenix



Leonard wants to be in the world's top five

English-language newspapers in Canada. Ever since tycoon Conrad Black gained control of the Southern chain of papers in 1996, there's been so much doo-doo-making that almost all major newspapers and most other ones have gone through at least one new act of owners. Ontario's *Globe & Mail*, in case of extreme example, changed hands five times in four years.

Conrad Black has now almost completely exited the newspaper business in Canada, as has his erstwhile rival media boss, Ken Thomson, the long-standing owner of the *Globe & Mail*. More recently, con-

glomerate BCE has been tangled in the markets, losing almost 20 per cent of its value in late March as investor confidence in its diversification strategy faltered. With parts of the conglomerate bleeding red ink, the silicon giant, now the majority owner of the *Globe* and CTV, may be forced to sell pieces of its media holdings, or other divisions. The Aspers, newcomers to the world of daily press, pulled up the Southern holdings and the *National Post* from Black in a deal that has met with contrasting skepticism in both the industry and the markets. Thus, and the immen-

dous power they wield as owners of Canada's largest stable of major dailies, has kept them under the microscope.

Leonard Asper is used to looking at the media differently from everyone else. Ever since his father's apogee as a call in 1974 for applications for a new television station in Winnipeg, CanWest has been a family enterprise, growing as the Asper family grew. "I didn't watch TV the way most people watch TV," says Leonard. "When he was in elementary school, CKND-TV, signed on. The business has grown into

Global TV, a national network that, measured by number of viewers, is the country's second largest private operator. By revenues, it's the largest. There are also broadcast operations in other parts of the world: radio and television in New Zealand and television in Australia and Ireland. As adults, boy's three offspring joined him in corporate headquarters and on the board of directors. Caid, 41, manages the company's subchannel, and generous, charitable foundation. David, 43, has some business outside the company but is still a key member of the family group (this owns 89 per cent of CanWest's voting shares). Leonard, at 37 the youngest child, is his opposite. Though boy will keep a steady hand on the tiller even while wintering in Florida, Leonard runs the show.

The newspapers, including 14 major urban dailies from Victoria to St. John's, were acquired in the name of the communications industry's infamous buzzword, convergence. While the broadcast side of CanWest's business is still considered its core operation—"we view our best area of expertise as being television," says Leonard—the newspapers have catapulted the company from a mid-sized communications firm to the very top of the heap of media owners in Canada. The deal, something akin to a snake swallowing an elephant, almost quadrupled the number of CanWest employees and mostly tripled its revenues. Given some very public controversies over editorial policy in the few months, it's probably also doubled the headlines that come with running a major communications concern.

The conundrum faced, involving a series of pretenses by reporters and columnists, surfaced when CanWest announced its plan to publish controversially written editorials in the major Southern paper (page X3). For boy Asper, it's normal that a newspaper reflects the opinions of its owners. "That's what newspapers do," he says. "Otherwise they can't put advertisements."

At Southern, that view has been a mild dispute. For more than a century, the formal Southern position was that local editorial control would reside with the local publisher and editor. According to Wilson Southern, a long-time Southern board member and a grand-grandson of the company's founder, Wilson Southern, the policy forcefully fell into place in order to avoid family squabbles about editorial issues. The policy Southern says, made for stronger newspapers—and he calls on the

## 'WE'RE VERY HAPPY'

With Jack playing lightly in the background, level (left) Asper, creative chairman of CanWest Media Communications Corp., speaks in Montreal's National Business Correspondent Katherine Mackenzie from his winter home at West Point Beach, Fla.

Mackenzie: With the benefit of hindsight, how do you now view CanWest's \$3.2-billion acquisition of the Southern papers and the National Post from Conrad Black's Hollinger International Inc.?

Asper: We're very, very happy we did it. I'm much happier in the newspaper content side than I was in television. Television is principally entertainment, same information. I've been a self-confessed news, information, documentary guy all my life. I've never even seen most of our big TV hits. The first time I saw *Oz* was when it was off the air. I took a village, not programming.

Mackenzie: Are the newspapers a source to feed the broadcast side of the business?

Asper: Yes, we will be able to draw more and more on the journalist side. And as we move more and more into the digital world, there will be more opportunity. The same thing could be entertainment. For example, we're talking for now we've got a joint channel. We're talking it out. That's my nephew. Mackenzie: You can, Leonard, says the company's plan is to be among the top five media firms in the world.

Asper: He can say that. It's 37, I'm 40. I can only hope. You know, for day my first grandchild was born, I remember being asked about when my own kids were born. It's like, hey, hey, hey. My kids had started a life. They've got to really outgrow that. They got off back and became what became you was the time to see how it all turned out. And that's the same thing with CanWest. No one should talk to me with a business, but it becomes your way of life.

One of my happily last major moves, when I was guiding CanWest into what to be the Northern thing, that was an imperative opportunity

to study the implications of media concentration not only in business terms but also in terms of diversity of voice. "Something precious appears to be disappearing," he adds.

To Christopher Doonan, director of Carleton University's journalism program, the problem for the company is that readers, who used to feel proprietary about their morning papers, may have less trust in what they read—and that may not be good for business. "CanWest," he says, "may discover they are in danger of culting their own brand."



family. It took me 25 years to build a national television network, 25 years of being turned down, of being told of being thwarted by every possible hurdle and madhouse you can imagine. Here, in one fell swoop, in a six-to-eight-week negotiation, we were able to do exactly the same thing in the newspaper business.

Mackenzie: What is your relationship with Conrad Black like now? He's sold his CanWest holdings at a significant loss.

Asper: Conrad is still on our board and has made no noises about wanting to leave. We know each other well and respect each other. It was always understood that they weren't in the business of minority interests in companies. They decided to sell sooner rather than later, but selling was always part of the plan.

Mackenzie: Given your background as a Manitoba Liberal and your controlled editorialism, some people expect to see a Liberal bias in your papers.

Asper: How do you read our newspapers? Have you read the *National Post*? Have you heard a happy opinion about the Liberal government or any other Liberal? Paul Martin belongs in the only balanced budget in the western world after 19/11, and I tell you, Martin will produce a surplus even in this long year, and what does the *National Post* do? It does the usual manner, you don't cut taxes enough, you didn't do this and that. So when is this big Liberal breakthrough that's going on? It's just foolish. And the authors of that blog know it. Mackenzie: Is there a big deal on the horizon?

Asper: No, nothing I would call an inevitability is on the horizon. People are going to find us, in our people terms, quite boring.

Self, argumentative as some of the staff may be, the newspapers were acquired for a reason. In fact, for a few reasons. Their editors and writers, who for outnumber the journalists at Global TV, can be—and already are—used to flood the market of news television. Sales departments can sell space to subscribers for both print and broadcast. Each medium can be used to promote the other, which nearly cuts down on advertising costs and heightens exposure. But ultimately, the newspapers are there to feed the Asper's ambition to create one of the world's largest media companies. Right?

now, CanWest regards itself as mid-sized "I would contest that we are big," Leonard says, sitting on a sofa in his office on the 31st floor of Winnipeg's TD Centre at the corner of Portage and Main. "As I sit on this sofa, we're giants." The goal is to be a serious global contender. "Our ambition is to be one of the top five media companies in the world within 10 years."

It's a huge ambition. Just to get into the club, CanWest's revenues (the equivalent of about US\$1.6 billion last year) would have to swell nearly 13 times to about US\$20 billion—and that assumes the giants, like Viacom Inc. or AOL Time Warner Inc., don't get any bigger. After says it's possible. He points out that between 1993 and 2002, Viacom's revenues grew roughly twofold to US\$23 billion. "I look at the last 25 years of where we've come," After says. "It's not inconceivable that we could reach the same growth rate." To get there, CanWest would have to make a major acquisition in the U.S., and After says he wants to, once the company digests the newspapers. "We have to take a breather, of course."

That's for sure. CanWest has one of the largest debt loads of any Canadian public company—and it has set off warning bells for investors. "It's not a situation that's totally out of control," says an equity analyst, who added not to be alarmed, "but it's running pretty hot." The debt sits at \$4 billion, virtually unchanged since the Aapers bought the Southern papers in November, 2000. The debt is manageable, the Aapers say. The company, Leonard says, can sell govt and business assets if needed. "I wouldn't call it an albatross," adds Lay, on the phone from West Palm Beach, "but it's an impediment to be overcome—and we will." The debt was calculated, he says, as part of the Southern deal. "What we didn't calculate was the onslaught of the recession—and 9/11 did not advance things." The sleep-whiskered advertising revenues for television and newspapers.

CanWest must hit its \$200 million a year in free cash flow to retire the debt down. But Tim Casey, media analyst for BMO Nesbitt Burns, says that while the company can cover the cost of carrying the debt, there isn't enough to chip away at it. Further, Casey says, he sees "a lot of opportunity for improvement."

The heavy debt load has other costs. It makes CanWest's stock trade at a 30 to 25

per cent discount to its peers, according to Casey. The size means that convincing the banks or the markets to extend more credit would be a hard sell, essentially blocking new deals for CanWest. Witness the tale of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the hometown daily that used to be owned by Thomson Corp. It was bought last fall by Ron Stern and Bob Silver, two independent businessmen who have collaborated on other deals and who, while personally wealthy, do not have a huge empire behind them. For \$150 million, they were able to match the *Free Press* and the *Brandon Sun* away from the bigger guns of CanWest. "The downturn in the economy helped—the competition was more hobbled," says Stern. Leonard After freely admits that his family "would have loved to own the *Free Press*." But the decision was made to save the company's access to capital for high-growth businesses, such as the Internet, cell services or investments in the United States. Still, After says, taking the pain was "very, very painful."

CanWest won't let the big-analyst gripes, lay claims. "We will not allow an implausible on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go by unaddressed," he says. CanWest still has open credit of several hundred million dollars, he says. But he knows the stock market would likely pull down CanWest's share price if he signs that credit. A more palatable means of raising capital—either for a new acquisition, or more likely, to pay a debt in the existing debt—would be to sell something. The company is considering unleashing some assets, possibly the community newspapers. Buyers have approached CanWest, lay says, but nothing has been decided.

One way out of the hole may be via the Internet, or more precisely, to potential. "Media companies are convinced that spectacular growth lies in assets for the enterprise, that can harness Web content and computerized classifieds," says Catherine Dornan, who recently completed an in-depth analysis of CanWest's Southern acquisition for an upcoming book. "While still unproven, advertising revenues on the Web were up 1,000 per cent from 1997 to 2000. Newspaper ad sales rose only 12 per cent. While no one yet figured out how to make money from a combination of traditional media and the Internet, one of the most natural marriages involves the classified section—a long-

## THE CANWEST EMPIRE

CanWest Global Communications Corp.  
Market value: \$2.3 billion

### PUBLISHING

- National Post
- Paid circulation (weekdays): 332,116
- Southern Publications Inc.
- 14 major dailies: including the Halifax Daily News, Montreal Gazette, Ottawa Citizen, Calgary Herald, Shoppers Journal and Vancouver Sun, and more than 120 daily and weekly community papers

### TELEVISION

- Global Television Network
- 10 stations across Canada
- Five after Canadian TV stations
- Seven specialty channels, including Home, Mystery, Lifestyle and Fox Sportsnet Canada

### PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- CanWest Entertainment
- Produces TV's *Polic Hunter* and distributes movies such as *Pat Reid* internationally

### THE INTERNET

- Canada.com
- Web portal for all CanWest content
- INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS

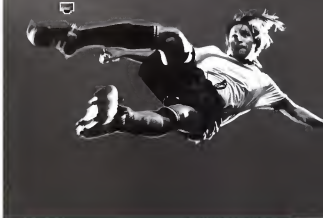
### NETWORK TV

- Australian TV Asia Pacific advertising
- TV & TM
- New Zealand commercial channels
- CanWest New Zealand Radio
- More than 20 radio stations
- TVA (45%)
- 100% Hispanic commercial channel
- WTV (26%)

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standing domain of newspapers. Looking for an apartment? Just type in the desired location, number of bedrooms, preferred level, and instead of scanning the paper, the Net can quickly organize the classifieds for you: "Yesterday's mediums," says Dornan, "is the key to the future."

But the Aapers are also looking for assets where, right now, they can budget their print and broadcast assets. Leonard would have noticed, probably with a smile, a moodier picture of actor Robert De Niro a few weeks ago in the *Saturday* edition of the *National Post*. The photo, played large on the front page, accompanied a story about a TV documentary on Sept. 11 that was to be aired late in the weekend. Produced by CBS, the program was also being carried on Global in Canada—the story made clear. The previous week, Global broadcast a special program about



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## Business

the conflict in Afghanistan. Nine journalists from the *Post*, Southern dailies and Global sat perched on stools, discussing their experiences in the war-torn country before a live audience at the University of British Columbia. Both events—the *journalists on Global* and the newspaper coverage of a TV documentary—are part of the new world of convergence, at least as Leonard Ager sees it.

For Ager, content is king. The *National Post*, the degree broadcaster Black launched to great fanfare in 1998, is a case in point. Since day one, it's been a money loser, even after the Ager's job cuts and budget-righting. Nonetheless, it is "fundamental" to the company's strategy, says Leonard. *Post* journalists "play a major role in creating a better quality newscast for local news and the national news," he says. Asked if CanWest will carry the *Post* if its losses continue, Ager hems and haws, and talks about the resources the paper provides for the overall CanWest news strategy. Any judgment of success "has to factor in those dynamics," he says.

A new call center is another key component of CanWest's convergence strategy. The centralized facility in Winnipeg will employ hundreds to collect much more detailed information about TV viewing habits than is now available to broadcasters. The idea, Ager explains, is that convergence will add a few dozen questions for newspaper subscribers who call in. "Did you see *Arrested* last night? Did you see the *LOrdal* still?" Says Ager, "We're starting to build the database." The information about readers and viewers is crucial to CanWest's subscription-based advertisers, who, in the multi-channel universe, have cut back on the spending that goes to traditional broadcasters like Global.

Analysis and other observation applaud many of the Ager's convergence strategies—even if the jury is still out as to whether those plans will end up making money. The debt, though, gives pause to most analysts, just as the editorial policy gives pause to some readers. But *Post* Ager, a former columnist, loves owning paper, financially and personally. "Newspapers are much closer to where I come from than television," he says. Still, Leonard Ager will want to keep scrutinizing the newspapers that land on his doorstep. He, and even his father, may still have a long way to learn about them.

## THE VIEW FROM THE CENTRE

When Michelle Lang, a reporter at the *Regina Leader-Post*, sat down on the evening of March 4 to write about a speech she'd just attended, she must have known the story would be tough. Hassan Siddiqui, a veteran commentator for the *Toronto Star*, had been highly critical of the *Leader-Post's* proprietor, CanWest. Global Corp. marketers Corp.—owner of the *Southern Post*—colours too. As Lang wrote in her opening paragraph, Siddiqui "accused the company of pandering... stirring acts of censorship." The following day, though, a different version appeared in the paper. "It seems *Star* columnist says it's OK for CanWest Global to publish his view now..." Lang's byline was not on the story—she pulled her name to protect.

So did she after *Leader-Post* reporters the next day asking a move in December at the *Southern Post*-owned *Midland* Streets, where reporters had first bylines two days earlier. It is one for both sets of journalists—and Siddiqui—was the latest from CanWest's policy launched in December, to publish unedited written editorial in its major urban dailies. Some commentators said the centralized policy would bring supervisor of local news. The journalists fear it is affecting the way topics from national politics to the Middle East are presented—not only in editorials, but also in the news pages. CanWest says its intention is to present "informed opinion on matters of public interest, to stimulate discussion." Instead, that argument—which company executives accuse detractors of distorting—has turned into a continuing controversy pitting Southern journalists against their corporate bosses.

Editorials have taken out in favour of his side, greater investigative levels and the *Topix*-E Section. And so the Middle East, CanWest is "unapologetically" pro-Israel, says Marlene Davis, Southern's editor-in-chief and the person responsible for the editorial editorial. CanWest's policy born the newspapers now publishing an assigned editorial, understanding the centrally written message, but it doesn't stop signed up-ed pieces or columns from taking differing views. Davis says, still, at the *Quebec* where editorial page editor Peter Hadfield asked to be reassigned (he was), an *Adrian* content spending. CanWest's policy was upheld, and he remains writer to work their column. In his speech, Siddiqui listed five other writers of papers from Saskatchewan to *News* where assigned column had been killed for either contradicting CanWest views or for criticizing the company's policy. Two quip; two were "sawed," Siddiqui said. "This is chilling," he declared.



Davis opposes policy

"In those journalists who say they've been censored," Davis explains, "I say grow a backbone." Eddies to address five in a story, in was done with Lang, he maintains, is not censorship. And, he adds, editorial decisions—to write only or apply columns or even discipline journalists—are made at the local level, not at head office.

Not nearly says the editor of the *Midland Daily News*, Bill Rogers. In an extraordinary letter to the editor of the *Leader-Post* in March, Rogers admitted he was the one to kill a column by Stephen Kinsler about the Ager's editorial policy, prompting Kinsler's resignation. But he made the call, he wrote, after a conversation with Davis, who "held me in colorful terms that publishing the piece would be a career disaster, at least as far as Southern was concerned." The letter, never published, was placed on a bulletin board at the *Daily News* and eventually posted on the Web. In response, Davis told Kinsler's Rogers had submitted his advice. The colorful language, Davis recalled, was, "without your looking for a bill to die on."

CanWest CEO Leonard Ager calls the controversy a "trap" in a report. Following the *Midland* protest, he blamed "some martyrs" for kicking up the dust. When told some Southern journalists fear for their jobs, Ager is sympathetic. "There's only so much time and effort we can spend trying to comfort people," he told Marlene's CanWest had simply cautioned: Do Marlene's journalists not to criticize their employer, a call that only makes solid business sense, he says. "What's so heavy-handed about that?" Ager asks. "It was fair to stop it."

Except it didn't stop. So, in Rogers, the response was harsher. "The *Leader-Post* already had the experience—they knew this was a no-no," says CanWest executive chairman *City* Ager. The 20 journalists who pulled their bylines were reprimanded, but when it comes out publicly were reprimanded for a week without pay. "I did not tolerate an employee who is not loyal to his employer," says Ager. "I happen to think this journalist should be made more strong." The journalists, at least, know where they stand. Katherine Macdonald

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Donald Coxo

## George W., villain

**W**hy did he do it? It would have been easier to understand if he'd waited until 2004. That will be the 75th anniversary of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff legislation, the bipartisan breakthrough that turned a global mess into the Big ID: What better date for George W. Bush to embrace protectionism as an anti-crass strategy?

In March, the President who had cast himself in the role of Reagan Redux, the principled promoter of free trade, switched from hero to villain, imposing tariffs averaging around 50 per cent on steel and Canadian softwood lumber. Deadline pressures apparently prevented him from delaying the announcements until April Fool's Day.

Although the serious concerns come almost simultaneously, the backgrounds to these 50-per-cent "volitions" to American uncompetitiveness differ. Unilateral administration spokesmen have tried to excuse their head-on tariff by referring to

working folk were in a level playing field. The truth, which is never discussed, is very different. Jeremy Grumman, of Grumman, Mayo, Van Oortloo & Co. in Boston, is an investment manager who advises large pension funds and sophisticated investors. He's renowned for his record of consistently outperforming investment in U.S. timberlands.

He's been right this time. According to most recent figures, timberland has delivered compounded annual returns to investors of 15 to 17 per cent over the past two decades—far better than the Standard & Poor's 500, and at far less risk. In that same period, investment in shares of forest products companies had generally lousy returns, even if they were fortunate enough to have avoided ownership in the numerous companies that went bankrupt. The only investors who got rich from steel were the hedgefunds—the master class (including, most conspicuously, co-president Jeremy Carter) who sat on their assets while the woodworkers and forest companies struggled with wide-swinging markets and increasing costs of capital.

This is forest feudalism: The landowners prosper across the cycles while the steel and villain do the work, take most of the risk and scrapie with the smaller share of the proceeds. The timber barons who must make huge payments from American lumber companies are the real cause of disaster in the U.S. forest industry, and are the real winners from the new tariffs.

For investors, the implications of pulling protectionism from its crypt are as scary as Bela Lugosi under a full moon. A new trade war would be scary news any time, but coming at a time of a war on terrorism, an advent into a realm of that other undervalued creature—inflation.

Free trade, given a chance, will drive a spike through inflation's heart. No wonder bond yields have been climbing since Bush fell into the steel trap. Since the Reagan Revolution took hold in September, 1981, long-term interest rates have followed inflation down. The further inflation and bond yields fell, the higher price-earnings ratios soared in the stock market. Falling inflation, falling interest rates and rising price-earnings ratios together drove the economy to new peaks.

"We're told not to worry, this is a more do-it-for-us trade dispute that will go away. Perhaps so. But then, the experts in 1914 said the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand would lead to anything, except war."

*Donald Coxo is chairman of Herio Investment Management in Chicago and of Toronto-based Jern Howard Investments.*

## Tech Explorer

### Battling child porn

**R**ebeca Warren has had more than her fair share of bad experiences on-line. A man she met via the Net began hounding her. A gig manager she knows had sex with an HIV-positive man he met on-line. And once Warren, unknowingly clicked on a linked link that took her to a site featuring two young children having sex with an adult male. Shocked, Warren immediately shut her browser. "I cried for a couple of hours," she says, "and then I got mad and decided to do something."

Today, the 35-year-old Warren runs [www.dynomail.com](http://www.dynomail.com) in Pembroke, Ont., with her fiancé Dave Ellis (whom she met, yes, on-line). Offering suggestions for safe browsing, Dynomail also features an anonymous tip line for reporting child-porn sites. But an instant change to the law, says Warren, is forcing her to jump through unnecessary electronic hoops—and, strangely, putting her at odds with police.

The House of Commons is now close to passing Bill C-15A. The measure will make it a crime to intentionally view child pornography, whereas previously a person had to possess it to be charged. That means it will be a crime even for Warren to look at such sites. In anticipation of the new law, Warren forwards tips to a partner site on the U.S., where the crime is assessed. "It's something that I don't think we should have been forced to do," says Warren. If the site turns out to be child porn, the U.S. group advises Warren and Ellis, who then electronically track down the location of the server hosting the site and report it to police. They agree they save police time and manpower that way.

No thanks, says Bob Matthews, the detective inspector who heads the Ontario Provincial Police's child pornography unit. Canadians can conduct investigations, he says, and such tracking gives a person an opportunity to claim they're only trying to help police. "There's a difference between witnessing a crime and actively seeking out crime," says Matthews. "We don't ask the public to buy lemon and then turn it over to the police."

In Manitoba, civilians and the law are working on a possible compromise. There, the province's justice department has partnered with Child Find Manitoba, which



Police prefer to protect kids themselves

usually spends its time trying to help find missing kids. This spring, Child Find hopes to establish an anonymous tip line linked to [www.childfind.ca](http://www.childfind.ca) to combat the sexual exploitation of children. Lianne McDonald, the group's executive director, is working with the department to ensure that Child Find staffers who view child pornography to assess tips are not prosecuted. A department spokeswoman says final details remain to be worked out. Industry Canada, eager to have some sort of communications network in place, is co-ordinating the Manitoba effort. The trick will be to balance the needs of the police with the desires of a well-intentioned citizenry—all without breaking the law.

*Doyle Howards*

### COOL SITE

#### Something fishy

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Mary Janigan

## How to help the cities

A moment gap between Ottawa and the Ontario government over any funding could be disastrous as surely as another painful example of a dysfunctional relationship. But behind the scenes the unspoken exchanges are fascinating hints that Ottawa will intervene far more often and far more directly to assist beleaguered city governments across the nation. The federal and Ontario governments were supposed to hold a glossy press conference last month to bestow funds like generous patrons on Toronto's impoverished cultural institutions. Instead, outgoing Ontario Premier Mike Harris unilaterally forked over more than \$91 million to an arena. David Collicott, the fake federal minister responsible for the Greater Toronto Area, responded that Ottawa would discuss matching funding for a wider range of projects with Harris's successor, Ernie Eves.

But Collicott also told *Maclean's* that Ottawa may use much of its new \$2 billion infrastructure program to become a far more active player in cash-starved cities—even if it does not have provincial agreement. Previous infrastructure programs have required provincial consent and partnership in each project. "We should look where we can help within our own jurisdiction, such as railways, where we do not need the provinces' consent to make capital investments," says Collicott, who is transport minister. "When asked if provinces should be involved because they have a better grasp of local needs, he is blunt: 'It is going to have choices—but you have to do what works. The art of politics is the possible.'"

That new screen comes nearly a generation after Ottawa withdrew from spending in urban areas, such as social housing and transit. And while it likely means more federal-provincial collusion, it is also related to a notion that Canada can face problems too big to grow. Jurisdictional quarrels are a luxury. "The revenue base of our cities is increasingly inadequate to deal with their needs," says Mike Gervin, economic geography professor at the University of Toronto. "It is a bad news that we are effectively starving them."

The situation is grim. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has compiled a litany of statistics on urban needs, ranging from \$9.2 billion for capital investment in public transit over the next five years to the cleanup of 4,000 contaminated industrial sites. But despite their increasingly complex challenges, city governments must largely rely on the antiquated mechanism of property taxes for 94 per cent of their revenues. When incomes increase, revenues from property taxes do not automatically rise in response. In the last five

years, the federation says, municipal government revenues have gone up 7.7 per cent—compared with 26 per cent for provinces and 33 per cent for the federal government. Worse, it is difficult to increase property taxes without penalizing poorer residents.

Federation president Jack Layton, a Toronto councillor, points out that U.S. cities are in the midst of a major revival after decades of decay—because the U.S. federal government is pumping billions of dollars into their infrastructure. It is a vicious circle: healthy cities attract investment and talented workers who generate growth. To capture the benefits, Layton has a breathtaking figure: Washington pumps US\$56.55 per person per year directly into municipal budgets, Ottawa contributes US\$10.22 for comparable services. "In the old days, when there were a few home and braggart cars, city governments just had to make sure that the bridge didn't collapse," he says. "Today cities must supply sophisticated infrastructure for our quality of life. But there is a massive mismatch between what they must do—and what they can collect."

Urban governments have a wish list. They have asked Finance Minister Paul Martin for \$4.5 billion per year

for the next five years to fix up everything from water systems to social uses. Layton is pressing for so-called "dedicated" funding. Ottawa should agree to transfer a set number of percentage points of tax revenue to city governments each year—either from personal or sales taxes. That way, cities would be able to plan multi-year projects such as transit construction.

It's a worthy request. But, although Collicott personally advocates "innovative" approaches to funding, including the possibility of dedicated taxes, this government will almost certainly not surrender long-term control over its revenues. Instead, it is creating new programs to meet urban needs. The 58-year-old Collicott likes urban life: he was born in London, England, and brought to Toronto at the age of 14. So he has heard of Ottawa's ongoing activism in almost certainly a taste of the ventures ahead: \$640 million for affordable rental housing, \$1.6 billion in community infrastructure funds, \$735 million for the hospitals, \$125 million for municipal environmental projects, a "maximum" contribution of \$2 billion to a new infrastructure program for everything from sewage to transit. "The federal government cannot say it does not have an interest in cities—when 80 per cent of Canadians live in them," says Collicott. "We have to find some way of getting money to cities." Dedicated taxes would be the best way. And the best time would be now.

**The feds are once again ready to give money to cash-starved urban Canada, but it's not the best solution**



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People Edited by Shanda Dezel



Silvers gives her lyrics her own twist.

## Plagiarizing life

Melinda Silvers has a Mona Lisa smile. There is an almost imperceptible tilt to the corner of her lips while her eyes remain neutral, absorbing details but giving away nothing. It is an ideal face for an author who admits that nothing was sacred when creating characters and scenarios for her first novel, *The Heart Don't Beat*. "I drew from people I know," says the Toronto-based co-founder and managing editor of Slant Vision Press (the first publishing house specifically for women of colour in Canada). "It is probably pretty rubbish, but if you are going to spend all of your time working on a novel it is important

to put everything inside the book, otherwise there is no point."

To be fair, Silvers crafts from her own life as well: the book probes the issues of identity and family for a young, gay, Jamaican-born woman in Toronto. But the similarities end there. In *The Heart Don't Beat*, the narrator, Molly, is raised by her grandmother, Maria, a loving yet merciless family matriarch who views Molly's sexuality "I was writing about the fragility of life and the human experience," says Silvers, 46. "And in the case of Maria, how someone can be so right and so wrong at the same time. About how life just takes over and sometimes is really cruel ways." In her writing, Silvers doesn't hold back.

## One lump or two?

While staying at a New York City hotel, Silvers wrote her first book, *Melinda's Story*. It was a pretty tough job. "I was literally jumping coffee to David White," laughs the 25-year-old who also bartended for the singer "Celine" while about eight cups a day so it could get pretty intense one week. Silvers, the next Tuesday?

In 1997, White left school and started the guitar store, leading to first work in television and then, he moved in Toronto and is now working in both mediums. On the big screen, he has a small role as 1940s pop star Frankie Cannata in George Clooney's upcoming directorial debut

### Confessions of a Designing Mind

Melinda on the smaller screen, White starred in *Love Hines*, a dramatic series which aired last year on Showtime in the U.S. and is currently playing on Bravo in Canada. While that show about sex crimes wasn't received for a second season, White has already sold a TV series he produced in a Canadian network to do next fall.



He can't divulge the details, only saying it's one of the biggest developments since the writer's exit effort. Sounds like an impressive leap from the days of keeping Celine behind.

John Bell

## Rattle and roll

There was never any doubt that Florida Sigismundi was destined for a career in the arts: her mother sang mezzo-sopranos, her father sang, and the spectacle of opera is embedded in her soul. Born in Piacenza, Italy, and raised in Hamilton, Sigismundi studied painting and illustration at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. Within a year of graduating in 1991, she had established herself as a futurist photographer, and a year later she was directing music videos. In 1997, *The Beautiful People* video she shot for Marilyn Manson was her MTV Best Rock Music Video Award nomination, and by the end of the decade she had worked with David Bowie and Björk. "Halo-sciency," "dramatic" and "surreal" have been used to describe her work. Regardless of the medium, her images have one thing in common—their ability to rattle and unsettle. "I look inward, under the carpet or shoring a light over dark corners," says Sigismundi, 36. "It helps me deal with life."

Based in both Toronto and New York City, Sigismundi directed Leonard Cohen's *In My Secret Life* video last summer, generating her first Juno Award nomination. Montreal's Habitat '67 (the apartment complex built for Expo) provided the backdrop—the cubic architecture con-



trasts sharply with the distorted hands of the people phoned inside, and Cohen emerges from the shadows. "You don't know whether the house life is the one he's living or the one he's imagining," says Sigismundi, a longtime Cohen fan. "It's very ambiguous, and that's what I liked about the song." David Whyle

# THE DAYCARE DILEMMA

BY SUE FERGUSON

Tania's daycare odyssey began in January, 1999, when she was just eight months old. Her parents lived one of three fellow students in Victoria's Carriveau College to watch her while they were in class. Now, at 3½, the avid colourist and preschooler has experienced a host of seven different arrangements, from casual babysitters to licensed in-home and centre-based care, both commercial and non-profit. Tania's mother, Monna, attributes the disappointments to a variety of factors (because of parental concerns for children's privacy, *Montessori* is using five nannies only in this story). Sometimes life simply put in the way, as when a provider decided to change careers or, in September, 2000, when Monna and her husband, George, moved to Burnaby, B.C., where Monna was attending Simon Fraser University. But so often the parents have pulled Tania from care because they were worried for her welfare—after dropping by to find caregivers in heated arguments with their spouses, or speaking in sharp, anxious tones to children as, in one case, denying Tania her bottle and cup, without consulting the parent beforehand, in an effort to "speed" her development.

In the same province, 260 less-affluent, five-year-old Paige and her brother, Avi, 18 months, have never had to feel the confusion and frustration of daycare emergencies. After moving from Toronto to Kelowna, B.C., in 1996, their parents—both doctors—bared a mummy. They were so pleased with the consistently high quality of care that the prospect of losing their nanny, Evelyn, "was a big part of the reason why we decided not to move back to Toronto," says mother Annette, after her husband was offered an attractive position at their hometown.

The stark contrast between Tania's experiences and those of Paige and Avi is not accidental. Clearly, household income—less than \$20,000 a year in median income compared to the six-figure salaries of two medical professionals—is a significant factor. As physician Annette readily acknowledges, "in terms of the real world, we're in a bad luck because we have financial flex-



The Bikojevo daycare, child-care advocates regard Quebec as a model for the rest of Canada.

ibility," but child-care advocates and academics are quick to point out that the variations in daycare experiences is due to more than just income levels. After all, Tania—aided by a subsidy that covers \$228 of the monthly \$580 fee—is now happily enrolled in the Montessori Centre at Simon Fraser, one of British Columbia's most reputable daycares. The broader issue, says Martha Friendly, coordinator of the Childcare Resource and Research Unit at

the University of Toronto, is Canada's lack of commitment to a national child-care system. The research shows that "group exposure to a high-quality child-care setting is advantageous for all kids, regardless of income," says Friendly.

But of Canada's 2.8 million children under six, only about 10 per cent are in regulated care (which is more likely than not, according to some recent early childhood development). The current patchwork of care,

As other countries move toward universal, quality child care, Canada continues to drag its feet

Friendly asserts, is "incredibly dysfunctional." And, as in dysfunctional families, it is the kids who pay the biggest penalty.

Friendly's voice is one of many that have spoken out over the past 30 years for "universally accessible, quality child care." The Royal Commission on the Status of Women first proposed it in 1970, and since then, three different federal governments (in 1984, 1987 and 1993) have committed to some kind of national program,

but each has failed to deliver. As for the current administration, Human Resources Development Minister Jane Stewart defends its record. Since taking office for a second term in 1997, the powers that be, the Liberals have targeted low-income families with hefty increases in the child-tax benefit supplement, dedicated funds to aboriginal children, extended maternity and parental leave benefits from 25 to 50 weeks, and devoted \$2.2 billion to a five-year federal-

provincial initiative on early childhood development. This latter program explicitly encourages the provinces to bolster their child-care facilities but, says Stewart, it's not Ottawa's job to direct the provinces and territories on how to spend the money. "We agreed upon priorities and came to the table with money. It is up to them to meet it." It is true, only seven of Canada's 13 jurisdictions have put any federal money toward child care.

While the federal and provincial governments "agree into the daycare waters," as Toronto Liberal MP and chair of the National Children's Agenda Caucus John Godfrey puts it, the need for a systematic solution has become increasingly urgent. In 1976, three out of 10 mothers who had children under age 6 were in the paid work force; by 2000, the proportion had risen to 70 per cent. In some areas of the country, says Maryann Best, executive director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the figure is even higher, reaching 83 per cent in Prince Edward Island. "If we have no day care for roughly 10 per cent," she says, "my question is, where do all those other children go?"

Zoe Klein nothing better than to grab her African drums and hang out a rhythm as she cruises from room to room in her Gatineau, Que., home. "She absolutely loves music," says her mom, Bernadette. Luckily for both mother and daughter, the precocious 15-month-old can also exercise her musicality weekdays at the Bébébois daycare, where staff regularly provide the children with a variety of musical instruments. As well, Zoe and the four others in her age group spend their days scribbling over four walls, building, cutting and going for walks around the block—all under the auspices of a caregiver with an early childhood education certificate who keeps Klein closely informed about Zoe's day. The centre even provides parents with a formal "progress report"—an interview supplemented by a five-page summary of a child's development. Zoe, it appears, has mastered the pincer grasp, but is not as keen as finger painting.

Teresa is an educational assistant with the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board. Like all employed Quebec parents using the public system of family- and centre-based care introduced in that province in 1997, she pays \$5 a day for child care

(daycare is given three days a week for families on social assistance). She and her husband, Michel, could make money financially, she says, had they stayed in Ontario. Having grown up in a neighborhood in Cuzco, Ore., east of Ottawa, there was irony of anti-English sentiment in her neighborhood province. "I always swore that I would never move to Quebec," she says. But in 1999, when she decided to have a child, the prospect of paying between \$30 and \$50 a day for child care led her to reconsider. Now, the wisdom of that decision is paying off for Tessa and Michel.

Child-care advocates across the country cite Quebec as a model for other jurisdictions. But within the province, the system has encountered some criticism. Having doubled the number of spaces since 1997, child-care agencies still cannot accommodate 65,000 children currently on waiting lists (many are from lower-income families who, says Quebec ombudsman Pauline Charbonneau, should have been given priority). While the government plans to spend \$50 million this year to create 20,000 new spaces, it's having trouble finding the necessary land. Meanwhile, private daycare owners, on whom the Parti-Quebecois government imposed a moratorium five years ago preventing them from expanding services, claim they could open up 23,000 spaces within a year at no charge to taxpayers.

In the background is a growing body of research indicating that quality daycare, especially in the preschool years, can be crucial for children. The period when many of the critical processes in brain development occur is "once or twice by the time a child is an year-old," concludes the "Early Years Study" commissioned by the Ontario government. In 1999, children of stay-at-home moms or dads who provide safe, loving environments are less at risk. But for the growing number of families that require it, the report concludes, good daycare can "not only improve" children's health, behavior and learning capacities in later life. Along with healthy family and community environments, friendly, confident, well-trained child-care programs with strong commitment to safety, learning through play and professional development for caregivers can be "a determining factor" in a child's ability to reach her potential. And this is true

for children from all income brackets. Citing the Ontario study, John Godfrey says, "It's not simply about poverty. In absolute numbers, more kids from middle-income families would benefit from a national daycare system." In other words, targeting resources for child care to poorer families—as is the practice in all provinces but Quebec—doesn't solve the entire problem.

That message has its home in certain quarters. "Steering Strong," an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development study published last year, states that although the record for infant care is mixed, quality child care for older preschoolers in the 12 participating countries, from Sweden, Belgium and Italy, have already established free child care



Since moving to Quebec, Zail's parents have had to pay only \$5 a day for care.

for three- to five-year-olds. Others are just beginning to map out a solution. Tessa, for instance, with 1.6 million new child-care spaces, will have in place by 2004 a universally accessible program for all children over three. Even in the U.S., the study notes a growing commitment to and expansion in early childhood education with "moves toward universal access to pre-kindergarten programs in many states." Indeed, "the trend is all countries," concludes the report, "is toward full coverage of the three- to five-year-old age group."

Canada, however, is "moving backwards" thanks to developments in Ontario and British Columbia, [paris.csls.org/Godfrey](http://paris.csls.org/Godfrey). Despite Premier Mike Harris' pro-election promise in 1999 to set on the "Early Years Study," Ontario has consistently cut funding for regulated care in more years. Last year, some say, Harris committed that working parents should be content to leave their children with family, friends or neighbors. And of the \$14 billion the province received in 2001 from the federal govern-

ment's early childhood development initiative, not one cent went to regulated child-care facilities. (Instead, the province invested in health, maternal and parenting programs, and research.)

Even-regulating parent savings have had a noticeable effect on the quality of care in Ontario centers. Cheryl DeGraaf is the director of Toronto's The School Child Care Centre, a pioneer in early childhood education and development methods that are now widely adopted. Since 1995, she says, budget cuts have meant eliminating field trips, spending less on food and toys, forcing staff salaries—Canadian early childhood educators make an average of \$22,000 a year—and cutting back on professional development. "It has definitely become harder to keep providing the quality of care that we're known for," she says. DeGraaf has also watched the complex physical environment deteriorate as parental attention has been divided away. Last summer, for the first time since The School opened in 1983, a parent stopped her in the middle of an uncharacteristic run to say, "Don't go any further—I couldn't bring my child here. It's too dirty."

Now, another threat looms. An Ontario government policy paper drafted last October and leaked to the press the following month outlined a proposal that, says Friendly, "would throw us back to the Stone Age." It pointed three scenarios for slashing \$200 million from the province's \$470-million child-care budget. Citing a possible overall budget cut of \$5 billion this year, Social Services Minister John Baird, responded by saying that nothing could be ruled out. "There are no guarantees in this world." On the very same day, Ontario Finance Minister Jim Flaherty guaranteed the province's corporations a \$2.2-billion tax break by 2005.

Parents in North Columbia are also facing the unknown. Last year, the outgoing NDP government introduced provisions that were to use parent pay \$14 a day for child care within four years. (The first stage, \$7 a day for before- and after-school care, began last March.) After campaigning on the need for greater fiscal responsibility, Gordon Campbell's Liberals took office, cut \$16 million from the program and announced its termination in June. At this point, no one is saying what will take its place. With the announcement last month of a proposed 31-per-cent budget cut to

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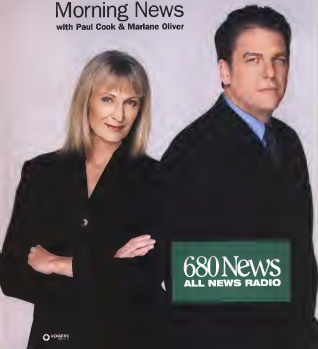
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# What in the world's going on.

## Morning News

with Paul Cook & Marlane Oliver



### Life

the ministry of community development and women's services (responsible for child care), "there is a great deal of confusion," says Sheila Davidson, director of child care in Simon Fraser.

But "the biggest problem," she adds, "is the lack of an overriding federal policy, like we have for health and education." The federal-provincial initiative, says Davidson, "is too ad hoc." Godfrey offers a similar criticism of the party's initiative. Inside as it endorses a comprehensive, community-based approach to early childhood development, he says, "it contains all the right elements." The problem is that Ottawa cannot force those specific measures on the provinces. Giving up such control, Godfrey admits, is a political question. "We haven't been shy, for example, with enforcing the Canada Health Act." But with child care, he continues, "we have tied our own hands." And while the Social Union Framework Agreement that sets the conditions for joint programs is currently under review, there are no indicators, he says, that Ottawa will use the opportunity to untie them.

"Why did the cookie go to the doctor? Because he felt crummy!" Six-year-old Gabrielle loves to be goofy and make people laugh, says her mother, Ann, a Regatta training student (their names have been changed in accordance with the Young Offenders Act). Three years ago, neither mother nor daughter had much to smile about. On a Friday evening in July, 1999, returning home from the private family daycare she and her younger sister had attended since the previous May, Gabrielle burst into her favourite spot, the coast down, and called her grandmother on the toll-free phone. "I was cooking supper," recalls Ann, "and Gabrielle came up to me saying, 'Granma wants to talk to you.'" The voice at the other end of the line relayed a troubling message: Gabrielle had just confided that her caregiver 16-year-old was "licks her pee pee." Hugging up the phone and holding back tears, Ann tried to reassure her daughter that she was no longer in harm's way, and then phoned the police. Picked up later that night, the boy admitted to the abuse—which had taken place in the upstairs bathroom, beyond the eyes and ears of his mother—and later pleaded guilty in youth court.

Although Ann says she had always felt "anxiety" about in-home daycare, after in-

terviewing the caregiver and meeting her two teenage children, she was comfortable with the situation. "She was a very caring lady and good with the kids," says Ann. "Gabrielle never told about going." But the experience has taken its toll. In kindergarten, Gabrielle had panic attacks at the prospect of going to the washroom—Ann informed the teacher of the abuse and special accommodations were made. Still, while she has made great strides over the past three years, says Ann, Gabrielle remains "a very insecure little girl."

Ahead of any lead is Ann, across Gillian Dobson, a University of Guelph adjunct professor who co-authored two studies of regulated family- and centre-based child care across Canada. "It is infrequent, but it happens," she says. And while abuse can occur in any kind of daycare, it is less likely to happen, she reasons, in regulated settings. Such incidents are doubly unfortunate, she adds, because "they cast doubt on the thousands who are providing excellent care." Inspectors regularly visit licensed family caregivers, a fact which helps ensure

the children's safety among other things. In fact, Dobson's research confirms that, as with centre-based care, the vast majority of family-care settings—over 90 per cent—are physically safe. The remaining eight per cent were not abusive, they seemed less due to insufficient attention to such things as good hygiene. Quality, she notes, depends less on the form of daycare than on the training credentials of the caregiver and the size of the operating budget.

Whatever arrangement proves perfect, says child-care advocate Maryann Bird, "quality early care should be available for all who need it." Other countries, says Bird, have spent two decades putting a system of good accessible care in place. Canada "has a huge amount of terrain to make up." And it won't happen, she adds, without political leadership—a sentiment Gabrielle's mom echoes poignantly: "Kids are kids," she says, "and somebody has to look out for them." □

Sheila Davidson is a university assistant professor.

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The ROM's Crystal will deliver an all-new look.

## Trading the past for flash

### Two Toronto museums go for dramatic makeovers

BY JOHN GEDDES

Gene Kinoshita is not the type to make a fist. He is, at 67, a disapproving Toronto architect, and careful when he talks about his craft. But he allows some more professional skepticism to creep into his voice—along with a hint of something more painfully personal—when asked about the new plan to expand the Royal Ontario Museum. The design by Berlin-based American architect Daniel Libeskind would see angular glass jutting high above the ROM's venerable stone and brick. "It's a great image, fine," says Kinoshita with an impatience. "But my concern about the ROM could how it works for the staff and the public. It's not an entertainment center; it's a museum."

He suspects the expansion is being driven by the impulse to make a splash—not to mention more rooms for cash-spinning restaurants and shops—rather than how best to display collections of old mail. Few would blame him if he expressed much stronger objections. After all, to make way for Libeskind's "Crystal," a major Kinoshita addition to the Toronto museum must be obliterated. So far, though, the little matter of knocking down this award-winning piece of recent architecture has gone all but unmentioned. Only the ROM's 1912 and 1932 wings have been deemed worth preserving.

The notion that Kinoshita's addition was disposable have atterred abroad when it was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1984. It cost \$55 million and



was the Governor General's Award for Architecture, praised as an "unbelievable" solution to the tricky challenge of doubling the ROM's floor space while respecting its historic sections. Its most visible element is a bank of five meandering terraces that rise from a little gray punky along busy Bloor Street. The lowest level has a glass wall that shows off the famous Ming tomb complex inside. But the terraces were never meant to be showy. Kinoshita is more eager to discuss his interior scheme, laid out to let visitors find their way easily among exhibits.

Unobtrusive infills and the subtleties of gallery flow don't count for much in this current wave of museum building. Any new design is measured against the tremendous Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain, designed by Canadian-born, Swiss-born, Calif.-based Frank Gehry, which opened to ecstatic acclaim in 1997. Toronto is on the brink of a Bilbao-cramped construction boom. Last month, the Ontario government pledged \$91.2 million toward projects worth \$446 million in art and cultural institutions. (The rest of the money will have

to be raised from other levels of government and private donors.) The ROM got \$39 million for its proposed \$150-million Crystal. The next biggest chunk of funding was \$25 million for a planned \$120-million expansion of the Art Gallery of Ontario—with Gehry's appeal to be the architect.

While Gehry is bound to propose something exciting, just what he's been sketching remains a secret. The AGO's recent history, though, is a sort of cautionary tale. The gallery's latest expansion was completed in 1993 to soundly negative reviews. A new face along Dundas Street, with a rogues' gallery on the entrance, was called "psychotomically ponderous" by a British critic. The recent tragedy was that this almost postmodern facade covered up something much more appealing: the master whose expansions of the 1970s, designed by John C. Parkin, a pioneer of Canadian modern architecture.

In the mid-1960s, Kinoshita, then a young bachelor, worked at Parkin's trail-blazing Toronto firm. The older master lived until 1988, long enough to see the proposal to build over his AGO work hatched, but not completed—unless it perhaps just as well. Kinoshita remembers his mentor's dismay over the plan. "He was most upset," he says. "His architecture is of rich, British style. But postmodernism had come along, and all British work was being rejected." And now it is Kinoshita's turn to feel that rejection.

There was no outcry about buying Parkin's AGO additions. There's no reason to expect a clamor to save the ROM's terraces. Today's taste for big, brash museums will not be denied. The treasures inside them will survive to claim our attention. The same cannot be said, sadly, for what's sacrificed to make way for new packaging.



William 'It's Smooshy' Phoo!

## Where the wild—and plush—things are

It's as if Robin Williams is doing penance after playing that medical clown in *Awakenings*, or any number of supply rules that have softened his edge. In *Death at Sea*, he takes a blue streak in the cottage star of a kids' TV show who gets fired, goes berserk and plots revenge against his successor—a millipede on a boat in a Barney-colored rhino costume. Directed with tongue-in-cheek bile by Danny DeVito, this satirical black comedy raises the stuffing of a play-by-TV TV character that serve as music for kiddie consumers. It's set in Manhattan, but much of the movie was shot in Toronto, where it has become the target of a dubious controversy.

Jeff Deverett, the Toronto producer of *Richelieu Rains*, a show for preschoolers that sits on a number of PBS affiliates, protests that *Smooshy*, the movie's fascist thug, bears a confusing resemblance to Rocky, the blue chimp on his show. He also charged that *Death at Sea* "crosses the line" with public signs of violence against children's characters, including posters that show *Smooshy* in a play bag and "Kid Smooshy" games on a Web site. Meanwhile, *Richelieu Rains* choreographer Karen Barber unraveled a gang of children to protest the movie's Toronto opening last week—a

publicity scare worthy of the shenanigans in the movie.

Describing *Death at Sea*, Williams has said, "It's Tarzan meets Mr. Rogers. It's *Reservoir Rhino*." And he goes to midday his dark side as Rainbow Randolph, a Capitan Kangaroo who slims from the post-haste to the game after he gets nibbled taking babies from stage parents pushing their luck. Randolph's producer, played by the crap Catherine Keener (along John Malkovich), replaces him with the poorly suited Sheldon (Edward Norton), a graduate do-gooder who performs at the Coney Island madhouse clinic. As his Smooshy becomes a TV sensation, Randolph wages a psychotic campaign to destroy him.

This stylized comedy unfolds like a live-action cartoon. It portrays children's entertainment as a sugar-and-plastic site engine ruled by parasites and gangster chortles. DeVito's direction, like his acting, is loud and shallow. But the cast shines, especially Norton, while screenwriter Adam Resnick (*The Gory Sins of Sin*) displays a strange wit. Besides, what else can you see kiddie ice capades staged to *Rule of the Volcano* in a Maple Leaf Gardens roomed with Nazi banners? It's spiciness for Smooshy.

—Brian D. Johnson

## Love in a cold climate

With tales of lightning-quick courtships, busy marriages in borrowed dunes and several culture shocks, *Once Bitten and Twice Bitten* (McClelland & Stewart) captures the memories of some of the 48,000 British war brides who followed their husbands to Canada. Collected by Linda Greenfield, the brides' stories cover a wide spectrum of their experiences. Some surround their new homes to find hostile in-laws or husbands who beat them, while others embarked on happy marriages that have lasted more than half a century. There is considerable humor in the women's stories, and more in excerpts from Ontario's official advice for the newcomers, including this warning from the *Canadian Cook Book for British Brides*: "The average Canadian dislikes boiled fresh meat almost as much as he dislikes our packing."



## Best Sellers

Rank	Title	Author	Weeks on Chart
1	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
2	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
3	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
4	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
5	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
6	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
7	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
8	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
9	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1
10	<i>THE SHIPWRECK</i>	John Deere (2)	1

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## Maritimers by any name

**T**he least curious figures are in *And, oh, do they make for dangerous reading*. We're all headed for the same place, at some hubbubbed-inconspicuously in the streets among along the Trans-Canada highway, for the polar ice caps to melt. Don't take my word for it. The *Star* can go as far as it wants to keep going in the present direction, we're each bound for identical big-city flows in Toronto, Vancouver or Calgary, punching the clock each day driving our 1.6 kids from gym to rink long into the night, then collapsing after work with just enough energy to do some couple of glasses of beer-amen Melon and have an earnest chat with the wife before bed. For days I found the future too doubtful to contemplate. Until somebody mentioned Sir O'Clock and his brother Tes-After Then I felt a whole lot better.

Faced with a future of blind darkness, it's comforting to think of a town like Annapolis, N.S., where my phone book lists 21 John MacDonalds, 11 John MacLeans and an even dozen John Chisholms. Around here, it's not easy to stand out from the pack. So Ronald Fries, with the natural stiff posture, as known as Sir O'Clock, and brother Louie, who lived a little to the right, went by Tes-After. In these parts, a nickname is a necessity—a way for the Cdn. Academics and M'Kings to get around the shadow pool of first and last names.

Annapolis has had an Andrew G'Day MacDonald and another guy called Lucky John C. MacDonald. You could still meet the Billy Collier MacDonalds, who are different from the Cattle Billie MacDonalds. You might even cross paths with Renée D.D. MacDonald, whose family is known as the D.D.s—who for all I know are not related to former mayor Renée Elbrose MacDonald, who, in his day, was a hard man in the corners of the hockey rink.

Confusing? Then, drive to Cape Breton, where my father grew up now a family known as the Big Paps—because an earlier member of the clan once strapped just two cents out of his miner's pay envelope. And Hecate She Dan because he once had the misfortune of working on the calvery cloister up after the pot party made its rounds. Where my people come from, they hold onto the Highland tradition of using a pronunciation of names to corrupt up photos of long-dead ancestors. Which means that if one day you ask for a guy named Neil MacDonald, someone might reply "Now would that be Naily Dwan [from Dwan, More, where his father once worked] Donald [his father's name] Grace the Widow [his



6

great-grandmother] MacDonald you're looking for?"

Originality is important in a place where telling people apart usually means dreaming up a nickname so unforgettable that nothing else is necessary. Sometimes it's an occupation: Alan Parnac the sold card, or Danny the Bagler. Sometimes, it's something to do with geography—Art Swamp and his brother, who, for some inexplicable reason, was called Althea Pond, and the Colorado Swath, who bore an ancestor who apparently ad-libbed up with Jesse James. Often, it's a physical characteristic—Redmarkad Donald, the Big

Archies, Black Angus, Duncan the Nasc, Alex the Clock for a miner with one arm shorter than the other. Many times, the origins of a name are a mystery: the Bellshing MacNels, the Wased MacDonalds, Angus Blue, the Red Mike, the Bladder Campbell. Just as often, the names trace back to some grim piece of family history. Another Cash no doubt paid the highest also insurance rates in all of Cape Breton, and Piddle Ane Maclean received that handle not because of a genetic delinquency but because a family member liked to sit on the pickle barrel at the mining company store.

Of course, you can't control your own nickname. An old football-playing friend of mine in Halifax found that out when he began to be called the Raddier, he ended up in the Raddier, which somehow isn't nearly as intimidating. But since you've got one of these wacky nicknames, it's yours for life—maybe longer. So says Richard MacKinnon, a prof at the University College of Cape Breton in Sydney, N.S., who is an expert on Celtic names. To illustrate, he talks about a groundsman living in Grace Bay in the 1930s who went to school in a barrel of biscuits from the mine company store during a labour riot. Unfortunately, his infamous ancestor ended up breaking a toe when he dropped the barrel on his foot.

All that was ancient history, thought MacKinnon. Then one day, he arrived at Fredericton's University of New Brunswick to give a lecture on Highland names. Once the talk was finished, he opened the floor for questions. A shaly hand went up in the back of the room. "Excuse me, Mr. MacKinnon," said an ancient, covey, disembodied voice, "but are ye one of the Blacut Poet MacKinnons?"

*John DeMott, Macleod's Halifax bureau chief, has a nickname—but for dignity's sake prefers to keep it to himself.*

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